

ANCESTRAL SKETCHES

BY

LE ROY REEVES

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LE ROY REEVES

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*To the memory of
my maternal grandmother,
ADALINE EASLEY ROBESON,
fine daughter of a worthy line,
who fostered my early desire
to know whence I was sprung.*



LE ROY REEVES

ANCESTRAL SKETCHES

BY

LE ROY REEVES

A chronicle of the pioneer East Tennessee families, Reeves, Miller, De Vault and Range of Washington County; Robeson of Sullivan and McMinn Counties; and Easley, Hamilton, Acuff and Vincent of Sullivan County; and certain of their antecedents in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.

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INTRODUCTION

Most genealogies are mainly lists of descendants of some one person. This work reverses that procedure. Besides being biographical in nature, it traces back to colonial times all the ancestral lines of the children of E. C. Reeves whose sketch initiates this series. While its contents should be interesting to collateral descendants of the various ancestors, the tracing of collateral lines has necessarily been limited to a few cases where some especial reason obtains. However, the work is so planned as to provide a working basis for the tracing of such lines.

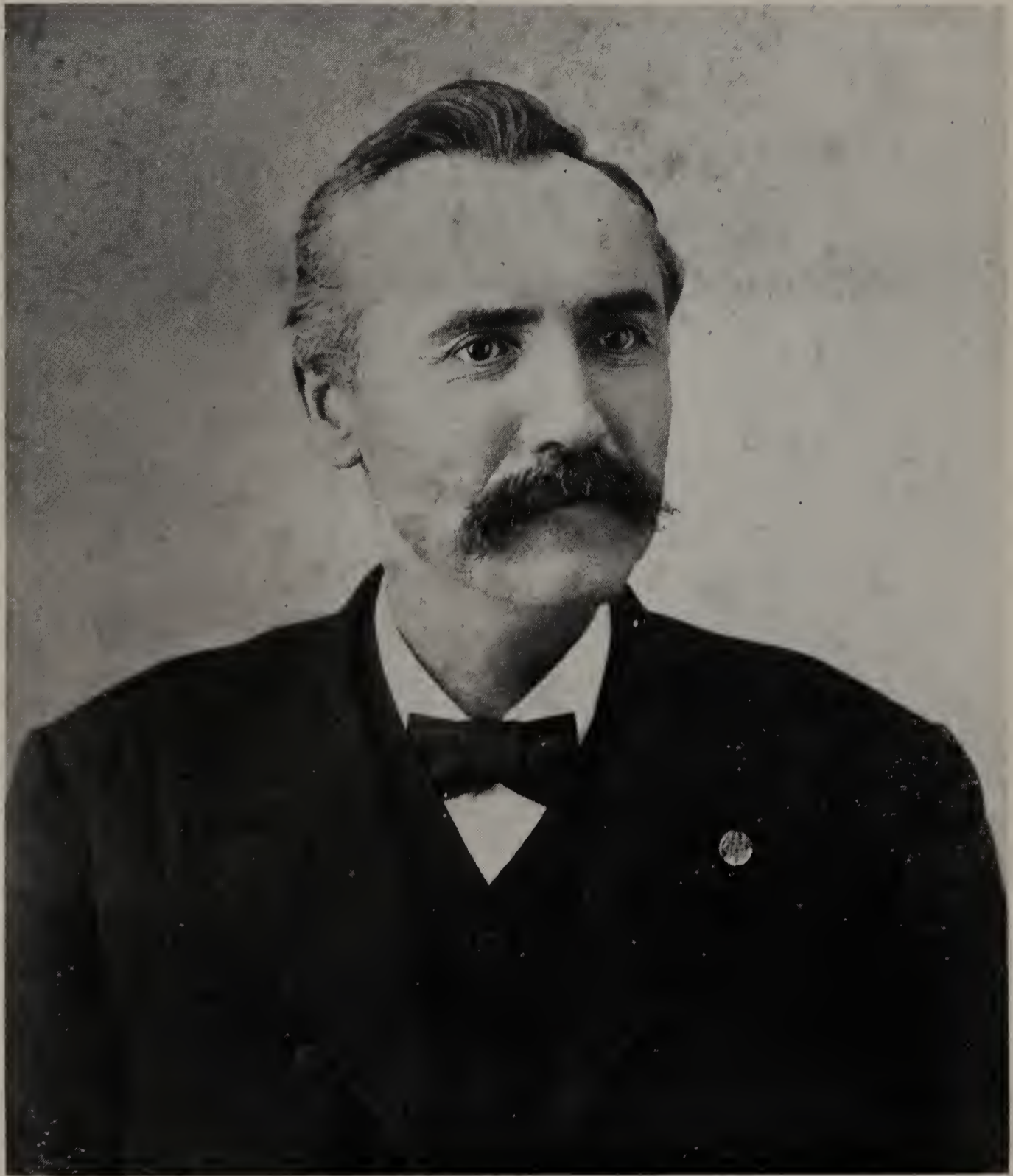
The collection of data for these sketches was begun in 1897. The first draft of the sketches was made in 1900. They received only occasional attention during my busier years; but opportunity for their revision and amplification has now been found. Additional material has been gathered from many sources—traditions, tombstones, Bibles, church and other public and private records, and the researches of others. Besides those mentioned in the text I am indebted for assistance to the kindness of many persons the listing of whom is impracticable. While effort has been made for accuracy, it would be remarkable if the listing of so many dates and details did not involve some errors.

The death of E. C. Reeves came practically at the close of an era, an era in which our nation progressed as no nation ever progressed before. It was an era in which men considered themselves equal to men's affairs; an era in which those who were worthy wrested by brain and energy and work, from earth and sea and air, a competence for themselves, their families and their old age. They had no acquaintance with the dole or the five-day week. Their women lived modestly, married, obeyed their husbands and reared their children as contemplated by Nature and the religion that they professed, and loyally seconded their husbands in their undertakings.

Together husband and wife lived comfortably, happily, and for the most part religiously. Not a divorce or a disrupted home marred any of these ancestral lines.

Mark well this era.

September 30, 1950.



E. C. REEVES (1888)

SECTION I.

Two Generations

Elbert C. Reeves and wife Alice Robeson; William P. and Peter M. Reeves, and wives Mary C. and Matilda De Vault; Rev. William Robeson and wife Adaline P. Easley.

ELBERT CLAY REEVES, my father, was born March 2, 1841 at the home of his father and uncle in Washington County, Tennessee. When he was about five years of age his father removed to the "Sinking Spring" home in the same county, which was thereafter his home until maturity. In his youth he attended school at Carr's schoolhouse near his home; and later at Boone's Creek Seminary, same county, during which time he boarded with his uncle William P. Reeves at "Wheatland."

In 1862 he volunteered as a member of a company for the Confederate Army previously organized at Boone's Creek Seminary, which became Company "G," 29th Tennessee Infantry, Smith's Brigade, Cheatham's Division, Polk's Corps, Army of the Mississippi (Bragg's army). Other members of this company were his cousins Rufus H. and Isaac E. Reeves; and E. M. Hannah, brother-in-law of his uncle Valentine De Vault, Jr. At first a lieutenant, I. E. Reeves was later made captain of this company and commanded it bravely thereafter. E. C. Reeves did not serve until the surrender. In 1863 he contracted an infection of the eyes that threatened him with blindness. He was subsequently discharged.

I have heard him say that at the Battle of Murfreesboro General Cheatham rode with his staff down the line which was being cannonaded by the Federals. As he passed Company "G" a cannon-ball cut off the top of a tree which crashed down almost upon the General. "Heh!" said Cheatham; "Shoot a little, can't they?"; and he rode on.

In February, 1866 my father and his brother John purchased a farm not far from "Sinking Spring" which occupied their time during the summer; but in the fall he sold his interest in the farm to his brother John and entered Emory and Henry College, Emory, Virginia, which he attended during the session of 1866-67. In the fall of 1867 he entered the Law School of Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee, where he studied law under Judge Nathan Green, graduating in

February, 1869, along with his cousin, Captain I. E. Reeves, each with the degree of L. L. B. and a license to practice law.

In April following he opened a law office at Greeneville, Tennessee, and seems to have become associated in law practice with Captain Reeves who had located at Jonesboro. This association terminated with his departure from Greeneville in 1875; but the two remained close friends until the death of Captain Reeves.

Johnson's Depot in Washington County was incorporated as Johnson City by legislative Act of 1869 which was repealed by an Act of 1875. It later became a taxing district under an Act of 1879 and so remained until re-incorporated under an Act of 1886. Thither my father removed in the fall or winter of 1875, taking with him his bride of that year; becoming later the first mayor under the re-incorporation.

There my father formed a law partnership with the friend and neighbor of his youth, Henry H. Carr, under the firm name, Reeves and Carr. This partnership lasted until he became Clerk of the Supreme Court of Tennessee at Knoxville. After the expiration of his term of office (1883-89) it was renewed under the firm name, Carr and Reeves; later Carr, Reeves and Jennings, when Charles H. Jennings, step-son of his sister, entered the firm. This firm was dissolved about 1897; and in 1899 he formed a law partnership with his son Le Roy who had been licensed to practice in February of that year. The last partnership was dissolved in the fall of 1905; after which he practiced alone except for some brief associations, until within about two years of his death. He appeared in the Supreme Court at Knoxville in the fall of 1923, in the case of City Savings and Trust Company et al. vs. Hunter et al. where he was of counsel for the defense and argued the case with clarity and vigor, notwithstanding his advanced age.

In politics my father was a Democrat, though he did not refuse to "stripe the ticket" when he felt that a principle was involved. In boyhood he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of which his parents were then members. When at the close of the War Between the States many Southern Methodists, including his father and other members of the family, transferred their memberships to congregations of the Methodist Episcopal Church, then being organized in East Tennessee, he declined to follow; saying that when but one Southern Methodist remained he would be that one. He lived to see his beloved church again strong and influential.

It is said that Mrs. William G. Brownlow, wife of the famous preacher politician, once asked him how it came about that in his after-

war church relations he differed from his father and other members of the family; and that he replied, "I informed myself, Madam"; at which Mr. Brownlow, who was near-by, laughed heartily. He was no doubt influenced to some extent in his political and church affiliations by his uncle with whom he boarded during his formative period; but he was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, keen analytical mind and strong convictions; a man who was wont to lead rather than to follow.

He was a member of a committee of which Rev. E. E. Wiley, D.D., was chairman, appointed by the Holston Conference of 1869 of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to confer with the Holston Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, looking to return of church property of the former taken over by the latter at the close of the war; and he wrote the report of the committee announcing the failure of its mission, made in 1870 (Holston Methodism—Price, Vol. V). One of his first law suits was that of William P. Reeves et al., Trustees, vs. Walker et al., Trustees, filed in 1870 in Chancery Court at Jonesboro for the recovery of the old Brush Creek camp ground and parsonage property of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Johnson City, taken over by the Methodist Episcopal Church; the record of which has not been found, though the order book at Jonesboro shows as solicitors for complainants, McDowell, Reeves, Kirkpatrick and Reeves. This was followed by the suit of E. C. Reeves et al., Trustees, vs. Worthman et al., Trustees, filed in 1871 in Chancery Court at Greeneville for the recovery of the Southern Methodist Church building at Greeneville, similarly taken over by the Methodist Episcopal Church; the bill of complaint which is in his handwriting being signed, Kirkpatrick, Reeves and Reeves, Solicitors. Both suits, which went to the Supreme Court at Knoxville and are reported as of 1874 and 1875, respectively, were won by the Church, South.

"Within one week from the time I opened my office," said my father, "to my utter surprise Mr. Johnson (Ex-President Andrew Johnson) stepped in, introduced himself, politely declined to sit, walked back and forth across the floor, discoursed as I stood at attention, filled with wonder.

" 'I learn that you have come to live in Greeneville and to practice law, and I've come to bid you welcome,' he said. Then he spoke rapidly of our people being stripped of all property except land, how young men, before a living could be made professionally, often became embarrassed and disheartened, and finally said: 'I beg your pardon, I do not know your financial condition, and do not think me impertinent, but by economizing I have a little with which to assist the worthy when in need. Be

your own judge as to that, but if at any time you need some help, do not hesitate to call on me, and I will gladly assist you. Good day.' ”

Thus began an intimate association that lasted until Johnson's death. It might here be added that in 1875, not long before his death, having learned of my father's engagement to marry, Mr. Johnson bought and pressed upon him a beautiful lady's gold watch with gold neck-chain and pearl-set slide in the style of the time, asking him to accept and make use of it as a present to his bride, which he finally did.

Soon after my father opened his office in Greeneville he became editor of the National Union, a Greeneville newspaper that strongly supported Johnson who was by no means done with politics. He met frequently with the ex-president and soon became his close confidant. At such meetings he would often read aloud political articles from newspapers of which Johnson took several, and Johnson would analyze and comment.

As Mr. Johnson's representative he attended at Nashville in 1872 a Democratic state convention called to nominate a congressman-at-large. There according to instructions he withdrew Johnson's name when, as was expected, it was placed before the convention by some of Johnson's friends; Johnson having confided to him, as to no other person, his great ambition to be re-elected to the United States senate in vindication of his course as president. Later, carried away by the enthusiasm of his supporters, Johnson agreed to and did run independently and was beaten; but that is another story. Prior to the election of 1875 by the legislature, that brought to Johnson on the 53d ballot the longed-for vindication, my father traveled the state to visit members of the legislature in Johnson's behalf. He was, before his death, the last survivor of the marshals of Johnson's funeral.

He was a great admirer of Mr. Johnson. At the dedication of the Johnson tailor-shop memorial building at Greeneville on May 30, 1923 he delivered an address from which is taken the last quotation above, and in which he also said:

“We see a scholar without an alma mater or even a school-house acquaintance; a logician without even having read a book on logic; a statesman made by a sublime ambition to reach the highest ideals in civil life; a profound expositor of constitutional law without being a lawyer; a President of the United States whose administration was ushered in by a tragedy and functioned through a perpetual storm, but was vindicated by his state

re-electing him to his old seat in the United States senate, the only ex-president ever elected to that august body." (Nashville Banner, May 30, 1923.)

The account of the Johnson meeting, quoted above, varies somewhat in detail, though not in substance, from that of the appendix to Stryker's Life of Johnson, below. This is but natural, as no notes of the conversation were kept and both statements were made in old age, four years apart. It is considered desirable to preserve the earlier statement.

It was there at Greeneville that my father made the acquaintance of his long-time friend Judge Henry H. Ingersoll, later of Knoxville, who had come to Greeneville at the close of the war to practice law; and it was there that began his intimate friendship with his third cousin, E. E. Hoss, then beginning his ministerial career that led to the episcopacy of the Southern Methodist Church, a friendship like that of David and Jonathan that lasted until the death of the great and good bishop.

At Johnson City my father was an active and public minded citizen of his community. In addition to his law practice he was associated in various business enterprises with Thomas E. Matson of Johnson City, and Columbus Powell, J. Allen Smith and Dr. R. M. Rhea of Knoxville. He was the first president of the Johnson City Foundry and Machine Company organized about 1884; and he was the first president of the Johnson City Real Estate Company organized about that time, the early holdings of which include a large part of the present south side of Johnson City. He was long a member of the school board of the Johnson City Public Schools; which period covered the erection in 1892 of Columbus Powell School building and Martha Wilder School building, the first and probably both named at his suggestion. He was appointed in 1896 a member of the board of directors of the Eastern Hospital for the Insane, at Knoxville. He was many times a delegate from his county to state political conventions. Though not of his own seeking he was in 1900 the Democratic nominee for Congress from the First Congressional District.

In loyalty to his Church he never faltered. Along with my mother he was an early member of the old Market Street Southern Methodist Church, later Munsey Memorial Southern Methodist Church, the first Methodist church organized in Johnson City; and was a regular attendant on its services, including Sunday school, until a short time before his death. He was many times a lay delegate to the Holston Annual Conference of the Church, and was three times a lay delegate to its quadrennial General Conference—Memphis, 1894; Baltimore, 1898; Dallas, 1902. He was from 1898 to 1914 a member of the Book Committee that had general

superintendence of its publishing house. He was a member of the board of trustees of Emory and Henry College, a Southern Methodist institution, from 1890 to 1921.

He was a member of the commission on unification that met at Traverse City, Michigan in 1917 to consider the question of union of the Methodist churches. He was, along with Bishops Candler and Denny and other prominent churchmen, active in opposition to the proposal for union submitted in 1925 to the annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; his opposition being based mainly on his belief that such union was impracticable because of fundamental differences between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South as to the status of the episcopacy, and the powers of the general conference; and the fact that the Methodist Episcopal Church included Negro conferences and Negro bishops. This proposal failed of adoption by the Church, South; but union under a different plan was consummated after his death.

A strong speaker, my father was even stronger as a writer. He liked to write. He was versatile, logical, and when stirred, severe. During the long period beginning with his editorship of the *National Union* and extending to his last years many articles, political, historical and otherwise, flowed from his pen. His article, *Brush Creek Camp Ground*, in the *Nashville Christian Advocate* of April 7, 1898; and his article, *Something Along Historical Lines*, in the *Johnson City Staff* of July 12, 1912, discussing the careers of Pharaoh and William Cobb, Washington County pioneers, are both of historical value. When in connection with the prosecution, in 1898, of the \$288,000 war claim of the Southern Methodist Church against the United States for occupancy of its publishing house, the Book Agents, Barbee and Smith, and their representative, E. B. Stahlman, were subjected to criticism, he came to their defense in articles published in Church and secular papers. An article in defense of President Johnson, written when he was eighty-six years of age and published as an appendix to *Stryker's Life of Johnson*, is perhaps the most severe of all his writings. This was in reply to "The Tailor's Vengeance," by George Creel, that appeared in the November 27, 1926 issue of *Collier's National Weekly* (*Andrew Johnson, A Study in Courage—Lloyd Paul Stryker*).

He wrote several articles in opposition, as above, to the proposal for Church union. In an article entitled *That Unification Constitution*, published in the *Nashville Christian Advocate* of March 19, 1920, he discussed the subject at length. His style and his intense devotion to his

Church are indicated by the opening and closing paragraphs which are in part as follows:

“A church is not divine. It is simply a human organization designed to help persons into the Church of God. Membership is voluntary. Individual members cannot be arbitrarily removed from one Church to another like pawns from one position to another on a chess board.

* * *

“I stand in my integrity to defend the Church which has been mother to me for more than threescore years and ten. Among human organizations she is my city of refuge; and I make bold to defend her * * *. It is a defensive fight, but should be a determined defense of principle and of right as God permits me to see it.

“From the ills this unification scheme promises to my beloved Church may the good Lord deliver her, with the help of her devoted children!”

His memoir of Bishop Hoss, read in October, 1919 before the Holston Conference of his Church, was so well received as to elicit the following resolution, an unusual action in such cases: “Resolved that the thanks of the Holston Conference be and are hereby tendered to Col. E. C. Reeves for the preparation and presentation of the inimitable paper on our beloved Bishop Hoss.” I quote two paragraphs:

“Our ancestors were related by blood and were intimate. The writer knew Embree Hoss when he was a small boy. In the year 1869, in Greeneville, Tennessee, one commenced his pastor life, the other his professional career. * * * Their aspirations and hopes were a common knowledge. An intimate friendship was then formed that grew in closeness and strength, as fifty years flew past, without a strain or a jar. The younger, by some eight years, first grew weary, lay down to rest, fell on sleep and awoke in the paradise of God; and now, the elder is trying to do that which the younger stood pledged to perform had the conditions been reversed as to longevity.

* * *

“And now that his pen has dropped, and his voice is hushed, and he is numbered with the dead, the history of Holston Methodism, aye, of world-wide Methodism, will be largely unwritten until a full chapter is devoted to the life and work of the loftiest son of Holston Methodism. And more, Holston Methodism will never show a proper appreciation of him who wrought so gloriously and so imperishably until a shaft, suitably inscribed commemorative of his deeds, shall have been erected by her over his sleeping dust in the far away state of Oklahoma.”

He was present as an honorary pall-bearer at Jonesboro, on June 12, 1924, when the remains of Bishop and Mrs. Hoss were brought home to lie near those of relatives and friends of other days.

In his prime my father was six feet, three and one-half inches in height, with black hair, grey eyes and rather heavy brows, weight about two hundred pounds, which increased with age until in his last years he returned to approximately his earlier weight. At the age of seventy-two he underwent with success a major surgical operation. During his tenure of office as Supreme Court Clerk some acquaintance, probably Robert Burrow another Johnson City lawyer, dubbed him “Colonel”; and he was so known for the remainder of his life.

His first home in Johnson City was just south of the right-of-way of an abandoned railroad track that later became the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad track, and just west of what later became Roan street. The Carolina Clinchfield and Ohio Railroad track now passes over the front part of the lot. There all his children were born; and there he and my mother resided until 1907 when they removed to a new house recently constructed on the easterly side of Buffalo street between Poplar and Chestnuts streets. This was their home until my mother's death in 1909, and continued to be his home until shortly before his death.

The death of my mother was a blow from which he never fully recovered. Though he survived her for twenty years her place was never filled. In memory she was always with him as his ideal of wife and mother.

In June, 1928, before leaving for duty in Hawaii as an officer of the Regular Army, I made him a farewell visit at the Buffalo Street home. Later when I was in Honolulu he wrote: “I knew when you left that you expected never to see me again.” I did not reply to that; for it was true.

From that time on he weakened gradually notwithstanding the care of his daughter Willie who made her home with him during his last years.



ALICE R. REEVES (1888)

A few months before his death he was taken to an apartment for better comfort. Finally he was removed to St. Albans Sanitarium, Radford, Virginia, for medical care and to be nearer his son Stanley, an engineer of the Du Pont de Nemours Company of Wilmington, then on duty at Richmond. There he grew weaker, finally lapsed into unconsciousness, and died on September 24, 1929.

His body was returned to Johnson City where an outpouring of friends and acquaintances and many floral tributes bespoke the esteem in which he was held. Like that of his wife, his funeral was from Munsey Memorial Southern Methodist Church. His eldest son was absent; but the other living children were present at the funeral, including his son Raymond, an electrical engineer of Montgomery, Alabama, who had visited him not long before. He lies in Oak Hill Cemetery beside the wife who had preceded him. The granite slab that marks his grave is appropriately inscribed:

“According to his wish his mortal
remains lie beside those of her to
whose memory he was ever faithful.”

The children:

Le Roy; Willie R.; Raymond P., deceased, married (1) Margaret Flippen, (2) Evlyn Baugher; Stanley, married Mary L. Hutchinson; Alice Felicia, infant, deceased.

ALICE ROBESON (REEVES), my mother, was born at the home of her grandfather, Vincent Easley, in Sullivan County, Tennessee, on October 9, 1851. In infancy she was baptized by “Father” Thomas Wilkerson who had also baptized her mother and her grandmother. During her youth her father resided at Blountville and then at Fall Creek in Sullivan County, and later at Rheatown in Greene County, which was her home during the War Between the States. Soon after the close of the war the family removed to the “Highland Mills” home near Blountville, which was thereafter her home until marriage.

In early youth she attended school at Seven Mile Ford, Virginia under Miss Susan Cox a well-known instructress of that time and section;

and later at Blountville under Rev. Thomas P. Summers. In the fall of 1869 she entered Martha Washington College, Abingdon, Virginia, where she was a member of the graduating class of 1870, as was also Blannie I. Reeves, first cousin of her future husband; and from which college her daughter Willie (still later a teacher of Latin and mathematics) was graduated in a later decade. During the next year she was a teacher at Martha Washington College; during the following year at Masonic Institute, Morristown, Tennessee; in 1873-74 at Masonic Institute at Blountville; and the next year at Hansonville, Virginia.

On September 23, 1875 at "Highland Mills," in a ceremony performed by her father, Reverend William Robeson, she was married to E. C. Reeves, who was then closing his law practice at Greeneville, Tennessee, and went with him to Johnson City which was thereafter their home.

My mother was christened Alice Dulcina, but she did not like the second name and did not use it after her marriage. She was of medium height, with blue eyes and black, wavy hair; of bright face and pleasing disposition; and of marked mental ability. I never knew her to quarrel, and she did not indulge in gossip. Yet withal she was very human.

In the long ago I heard Aunt Martha of her father's family tell with laughter that on one occasion during my father's courtship, when my mother showed fear in crossing a foot-log over the branch at "Highland Mills," my father jumped up and down on it to frighten her, with the result that it broke, leaving him on his back in the water with dignity much impaired; and that she laughed at him, which almost broke up the meeting. And, too, Grandmother had her story about how my father who had ridden cross-country to visit was caught in a storm, arrived very wet, was sent upstairs to change, and passed his tall boots out to be dried before the open fire, where they were subsequently found with tops shriveled up.

My mother was from childhood a loyal Methodist, most conscientious in her attendance on her church, giving much time to its various activities, wherein she was a recognized leader. She was at the same time a devoted wife and an understanding mother who never neglected her home. Without a trace of masculinity, she took an active interest in the questions of the day and the progress of the world. Not many years before her death she said to me: "So much has happened in my time that I wish I could live a hundred years more to see what the world will be then."

Her husband said of her: "Before I met her I had heard her praised for her fine character and her intellectuality; and I thought, 'There is the woman for me.' "

Her mother, observing her as she was reaching womanhood, said to herself: "I find no fault in her." A cousin said of her: "She was one of the brightest of many bright women whom I have met." Another said of her: "Her very presence was a blessing." (Andrew Robeson and his Descendants—Osborne.)

Her children elsewhere, her last years were spent with her husband at the Buffalo street home. Finally she fell ill. After several days she seemed to be on the road to recovery; but there was a relapse, and her condition was pronounced hopeless.

"And this is death?" she murmured musingly to herself when told by her husband that she was dying. She bade him an affectionate farewell; then as calmly as an infant yields to slumber she sank into unconsciousness and passed to her reward.

Thus died on March 17, 1909 an affectionate wife, a tender mother, an exemplary Christian woman. A city mourned her passing. An old Negro woman who had grown grey in her service said through her tears: "She never gave me a hard word."

Many were the expressions of regret at her death and praise of her high character by the press of her city and section. Said one newspaper: "She was the embodiment of Christianity and her daily walk was an inspiration"; and another: "If it be true that the pure in heart, the charitable in speech, see God her soul is this day with her Maker."

Her obituary was written by Mrs. E. E. Wiley, herself a bright light of Holston Methodism—founder of the Holston Orphanage at Greenville, who, too, has passed away. "Verily she had no eye for the faults of others, but was quick to discern any excellence, however small. * * * I believe I state a truth when I say that to each of her pastors she imparted both strength and inspiration"; wrote Mrs. Wiley, who quoted a former pastor of the deceased: "She could say more without words than anyone I ever knew. * * * She did not noisily antagonize, but her convictions of right were a light that shone and sometimes burned"; and another pastor: "Many a one will get home because she lived"; and the president of her college: "I have had girls to excel in one or two departments, but she excelled in all departments"; and another prominent educator: "She was my pupil for three years, and for one year was my associate teacher. I never knew her to speak unadvisedly with her lips. I never knew her superior intellectually."

Her funeral was the first from Munsey Memorial Southern Methodist Church, recent successor to the old Market Street church wherein she had so long labored. Six young men from her Bible class bore her body to its resting place in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Time shall not dim nor shall the grave destroy the beauty of her life; for as is engraven on her tomb:

“They that turn many to righteousness
shall shine as the stars for ever and ever.”





WILLIAM P. REEVES

(In the 1850's)

PETER M. REEVES

THE BROTHERS, REEVES. Peter Miller Reeves, father of E. C. Reeves, should be considered at this point according to the plan of this work; but so closely related were the lives of the two brothers, William Poudier Reeves and Peter M. Reeves, that the two will be considered together. The same course will be followed as to their wives.

William was born December 15, 1803, Peter on January 16, 1807, at the home of their father Edward P. Reeves about two miles south-east of Jonesboro, Tennessee. Their mother died when Peter was seven days old; and the brothers were placed by their father in the care of their grandfather, Peter Miller the elder. William was subsequently reared by his uncle Jacob Miller, and Peter by his uncle Peter Miller. They had common-school and high-school education, the last at Liberty Hill Academy somewhere near the Washington-Greene County line, under Henry Hoss, their mother's cousin, a fine scholar and an excellent instructor; this being true of Peter, and it being believed that their schooling was largely the same.

William married in 1831 and Peter in 1836, the two marrying sisters. Like their father they were trained as carpenters; and before and for a short time after the marriage of Peter they traveled together through the Carolinas taking carpentering contracts on court-houses and other large buildings at Guilford Court House, Hot Springs and Waynesville, N. C., Lewiston and Spartanburg, S. C., and perhaps other places. The wife of William apparently traveled with her husband at least part of the time as their daughter Julia was born in South Carolina; but the wife of Peter apparently did not. In South Carolina Peter once heard John C. Calhoun speak and was much impressed by his eloquence.

In 1838 the brothers purchased together from Jacob Miller for \$5500 a tract of 400 acres of land lying $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Jonesboro and $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles from what subsequently became Johnson City; this apparently with the assistance of their father-in-law, Valentine De Vault, as the settlement of his estate shows that each had received \$2000 from him in his lifetime. There they built a two-story brick dwelling, barn, blacksmith-shop and other outbuildings. There they made their home, each operating a part of the farm; that part of the farm containing the buildings being known in later years as "Wheatland." William is said to have done personally the excellent woodcarving in the house, which still stands.

In 1846 Peter purchased from the executors of Richard Carr, deceased, a tract of 200 acres of land lying about half-way between "Wheatland" and the Johnson City site, later known as "Sinking Spring" from a spring thereon which runs about 100 feet and then sinks. This was his

home for the remainder of his life except that in old age he and his wife spent considerable time at the home of their daughter Susan. William continued to reside at "Wheatland," which was his home for the remainder of his life.

The brothers were prosperous farmers and became men of substance. They acquired other farm lands besides those above. Both were strong characters, leaders in their community. They were public minded men. Both were early stockholders in the old East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad organized in 1848, later the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad, now a part of the Southern Railway system. William was a member of the first board of directors, serving 1849-65 and 1867-68, and was a member of the executive committee, 1853-58. Peter was a director, 1865-67.

Both joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in early manhood; and both went with the Holston Conference to the Church, South, when the original church was divided in 1844. In politics William was a Democrat and Peter a Whig. Both too old for service, during the War Between the States William supported the Confederacy, while Peter was a Union sympathizer. After the war William continued a Southern Methodist and a Democrat, while Peter transferred to the Methodist Episcopal Church, congregations of which were then being organized in East Tennessee, and was a Republican. In all this each was followed by his family, except that Elbert, son of Peter, was a Confederate soldier and a Democrat, and continued a Southern Methodist.

Rufus and Isaac, sons of William, were Confederate soldiers, the last a captain. Rufus was severely wounded at the battle of Murfreesboro, December 31, 1862, and was still on furlough, wounded, in October, 1864. Isaac was severely wounded in June, 1864, and was absent, wounded, until October, when his leave seems to have been extended. No further record has been found; and it is probable that neither returned to duty before the surrender in 1865. Rufus was later a dental surgeon; Captain Reeves a lawyer.

I saw Uncle William but once that I can remember, when I, a small boy, was taken by my Aunt Susan to visit him during what was probably his last illness. He was in bed. "What, Elbert's boy?" said he; "Bring my glasses so I can see him better"; and he talked affectionately to me for a few minutes. My grandfather I knew better. Both were of good physique, with good heads and positive features. In his prime Grandfather was six feet tall, with black hair, grey eyes and full brows, inclining in appearance toward his Miller ancestry. Uncle William was somewhat

taller and probably more like his father in appearance. He wore a wig, which accounts for the full hair in his picture. And yet they were in many ways alike. Both inherited their father's appreciation of a joke. Both were men of strong convictions. Peter was perhaps the sterner character; William perhaps more magnetic in general disposition.

Both were definitely the heads of their own families; but considerate of their wives and affectionate toward their families and grandchildren. Their affection for each other never waned, though once severely tried as will appear hereinafter. They were men of hospitality. Many were the Methodist preachers who shared their bounty, sometimes with their families for weeks at a time. Grandfather's uncle Abraham Miller spent his last days at "Sinking Spring" and died there, as did his cousin Sallie J. Miller, and apparently also his uncle James Cassady. The census of 1850 shows as members of Grandfather's family Sarah Miller aged 18, James Cassady aged 75, and Nancy Lisenby aged 24.

Both brothers were very religious. With each family prayer closed the day. Grandfather would read a Bible passage, lead in a hymn and then pray. As of yesterday I can remember his voice and appearance as, on one such occasion when I was a boy of ten, with all standing he led in a hymn that I have not heard before or since:

"We lay our garments by,
"Upon our beds to rest.
"So Death will soon disrobe us all
"Of what we've here possessed."

At Divine service either could raise an old time Methodist shout when greatly moved. Both were regular attendants at Brush Creek Camp Ground in what is now Johnson City. There Grandfather was known for his power in song. It has been said by some who heard him there that when his voice was raised in the old time hymns it carried a sweetness and power of persuasion that they had rarely heard equaled.

Grandfather had great affection for his grandchildren. He would fondle them, using his peculiar expression, "Dod-a-bless" (God bless you). He was proud of the fact that my brother Raymond P. was named Peter for him, and would call my parents to account for calling this brother, "Raymond." Once when I was playing hide-and-seek through the thick boxwoods in the front yard at "Sinking Spring" Grandfather told me to stop. I replied that he was not my papa. This was reported to my father who gave me a merited reproof. When he had finished Grandfather motioned to me to follow him. He led me to the corn-crib, unlocked the

door, and pointed to some particularly fine apples, telling me to take some, which I did promptly.

Once at Jonesboro Uncle William approached a group of acquaintances, offering to take orders for maple sugar. First one then others agreed to buy. Finally someone said: "Mr. Reeves, I did not know that you had a sugar orchard. How many trees have you?" "Only one," replied Uncle William, "but I intend to tap it on both sides."

My father and his cousins Rufus and Isaac would sometimes wrestle Uncle William in the straw on the barn floor at "Wheatland." They had much fun. Sometimes Uncle William's wig would come off, but he was strong and active and they could rarely throw him. I cannot just picture Grandfather in such a tussle; yet he, too, was a strong man. In my boyhood I heard the story of the remarkable number of bricks (I have forgotten the number) that he once carried at one time up a scaffolding ramp to the third story of a building under construction.

Both brothers kept slaves, but they were considerate masters. Under normal conditions the sale of a Negro was unheard-of. Joe, a Negro boy at "Sinking Spring," was supposed to be a "body servant" to the two older boys, John and Elbert. He was in fact their companion in their work, their play and their mischief. When their jackets got tanned Joe got his tanned along with the others and howled loudest of all. After the slaves were freed Joe went to Kansas where he traded in real estate and became well-to-do. When I was a boy he returned to visit his white folks; going from home to home, delighted to see old faces; and they were just as glad to see him. He came to my father's home for dinner. My mother put him at a small table beside ours, and Joe and my father had a good visit together.

During many years the brothers had continued to own jointly the first-mentioned farm. Finally, in 1869, they came to the parting of the ways. The story is not a simple one. Suffice it to say that William wished to pay off Peter and take the farm, but Peter desired to partition it and keep his part. They could not agree, and they went to law. The case of Reeves vs. Reeves went from the Chancery Court at Jonesboro to the Supreme Court of Tennessee. The opinion of the Supreme Court, delivered at the May term, 1872 and reported accordingly, said among other things:

"The record exhibits two brothers, in old age, differing honestly as to their rights—insisting upon their respective claims with an earnestness, persistence and pertinacity which appear almost incredible in view of the fraternal affection and con-

fidence which have marked their whole lives, and which, so far as the record shows, have remained unbroken through the present litigation. It seems unaccountable that two brothers of fine practical sense, of more than ordinary intelligence, of unquestioned integrity, cherishing toward each other feelings of genuine affection and confidence, should disagree so widely as to their rights and interests, and should adhere so pertinaciously to their respective views of their rights as dependent upon the facts, about which there is a substantial agreement—should have failed, after repeated efforts, to compromise or adjust their differences.”

And so it was. Through that long litigation the two remained brothers in spirit. There was some stiffness for a time, and perhaps a minimum of visiting; but if either ever had for the other a term other than “Brother Peter”—“Brother William,” I never heard of it. The wives seem to have met the situation tranquilly. The children, cousins of the same blood, all gone now, who had been more like brothers and sisters than merely cousins, grew closer through the years.

Peter won the suit, and the farm was divided. William retained “Wheatland” which included the buildings, and which at his death passed to his son William R. Reeves. Peter received the remainder, which was later divided and on which were built the homes of his two daughters, Susan Patterson and Elizabeth Jennings.

I was not well acquainted with “Wheatland;” but I remember the stately old dwelling with its large rooms and high ceilings; the flower-garden in front of the house, just across the highway; the artificial spring in the back yard fed by a pipe from a natural spring up the valley; and the fine old carriage of the style of the fifties, plush-lined, with arm-rests, glass doors and high outside driver’s box, that stood in the barn, already discarded as out of date and too heavy; once used by Uncle William to meet at Jonesboro his guests arriving by the newly built railroad, including prominent personages of church and state. Life at the homes of the two brothers was not very different.

William P. Reeves died at “Wheatland” on August 20, 1885. His obituary was written by Bishop Hoss, who said among other things: “His personal appearance was commanding. He could not have escaped notice in any company. Tall, erect, firmly built, he looked as if born to lead men. Few men had better endowments of mind. * * * he was a close observer and a great reader. * * * an exceedingly agreeable companion.

Even after he had passed his fourscore years, there was a frequent flash of the noblest humor in his conversation."

He was buried at Jonesboro in the old city cemetery where lie many of those identified with the early history of Washington County. There are the graves of his mother (unidentified); his wife; his children Julia, Susan and husband, Isaac and wife, Blannie, and William and wives. Adelaide is buried in the Valentine De Vault cemetery; Dr. McAnally at St. Louis, Mo.; Rufus and wife at Asheville, N. C.; Dr. Wiley and wife at Emory, Virginia.

The children:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--|
| Adelaide E., | b. 1832, d. 1833. | Infant. |
| Julia L., | " 1833, " 1878. | <i>m.</i> Rev. D. E. McAnally, D. D. |
| Susan D., | " 1835, " 1918. | " Dr. L. F. Sensabaugh. |
| Rufus H., | " 1840, " 1930. | " Georgia Broyles. |
| Isaac E., | " 1842, " 1899. | " Mary Dosser. |
| Elizabeth J., | " 1844, " 1921. | " Rev. E. E. Wiley, D. D. |
| Blannie I., | " 1847, " 1928. | Unmarried. |
| William R., | " 1850, " 1930. | " (1) Mary Murphy; (2) Mary R. Forbes, widow. |

When Peter M. Reeves purchased the tract of land which became his final home it contained a two-story frame house with covered porches front and rear; blacksmith-shop and barn of logs; and then or added later, smokehouse, loom-house, bee-palace and other outbuildings. On the north side of the frame dwelling, which fronted westerly, he added a two-story brick building with hallway and stairway next to the frame building, dining-room and kitchen in the rear, and covered porches front and rear. He apparently intended to replace the frame building with an extension of the brick building, but this was not done in his lifetime. As a result communication between the frame and brick buildings was through the connected rear porches. The "new barn" was built later.

In front of the residence, on the Knob creek road, was a large gate through which the driveway approached the frame house and then curved toward the right in the direction of the barns. Beside it was a smaller gate from which the approach to the veranda of the brick house was flanked by two rows of large, close-set boxwoods. There were some large trees and a vine-covered summer-house in the front yard.

To the north the ground sloped sharply from the house, past the blacksmith-shop, about one hundred yards to the spring in a small, deep hollow, from which water was carried to the rear porch by a trolley with appended bucket, operated along a cable by gravity and cord, reel and

windlass. To the south was the old barn; east of it the new barn; north of the new barn the kiln where lime was burned for the fields, and east of it the family cemetery. In the blacksmith-shop the horses were shod and the wagons and farm implements repaired. In the loom-house stood the loom upon which in early times Grandmother and others of the household wove cloth for the family clothing and carpets for the home. Under a shed stood an old-time schooner wagon with long, high-ended bed, once used for trips to eastern points for supplies. I saw it operated once.

In the eastern part of the tract lay the "race-path field" wherein was the starting point of the famous race track established by William Cobb before the beginning of the last century, signs of which could still be seen as late as the end of the century (E. C. Reeves).

This was "Sinking Spring" as I knew it in childhood; except that about the time of his marriage James M. Reeves took over some of the eastern acreage and built his home thereon. The remainder passed at Grandfather's death to George A. Reeves who removed the frame part of the dwelling, the boxwoods and trolley, remodeled the house and changed the driveway. The old barn had been destroyed by fire. That part of the place containing the buildings is now the home of his son William H. Reeves, and is still known as "Sinking Spring."

I do not know when the first cook-stove was acquired by Uncle William. That of Grandfather, a wood-burning stove, was the first in his neighborhood and was quite a curiosity to the neighbors who came to see it. Before its time the cooking was done at the big kitchen fireplace, in ovens and in pots hung on an iron crane that swung in and out. The stove was still in use when I was a small boy, and the crane was still there and sometimes used.

My father said that in his boyhood eggs would be packed in chaff in a large basket and carried to Jonesboro where they sold for five cents a dozen, not cash but in trade. Grandfather would make on the farm, above living expenses, a net profit of about \$500 per year, which was excellent for those times.

On March 10, 1886 the golden wedding of Peter M. and Matilda Reeves was celebrated at "Sinking Spring"—the home being thus designated in the gold-printed invitations, before a large gathering of relatives and friends. Of the children and their husbands and wives, twelve in number, all were present except Mrs. James M. Reeves, detained by illness; and all the (then) fifteen grandchildren. There were De Vaults, Millers, Ranges, Hunts and others. After more than sixty years only a part can be named.

In a ceremony conducted by Rev. N. G. Taylor, D. D. and Rev. J. S. Petty, the husband and wife repeated their marriage vows of fifty years before. There were many presents, including from the children a gold-headed cane for Grandfather and a gold breastpin for Grandmother, appropriately inscribed. Then came a sumptuous dinner that I well remember. It was served on the spacious rear porch. According to a letter of a few days later from Mrs. Susan Patterson to a relative, Grandmother was escorted to dinner by Dr. Taylor, Mrs. Samuel H. Miller by Grandfather, Mrs. E. S. Miller, Sr. by Rev. John H. Jennings, Mrs. James S. Hunt by the Rev. Petty, and Mrs. John D. Reeves by Dr. Miller. Said the letter: "It was quite a happy occasion to us all, especially to Father and Mother, as they wanted all their children and grandchildren to meet together once on earth."

Grandfather died at his home on September 21, 1891. During his last years he had become almost blind, but before his death his eyesight improved. He expected death and said that he did not "care a straw for it," an expression that he often used. He was buried in the family cemetery where now lie his wife; all their children with their wives and husbands (except William C. supposedly buried in the Valentine De Vault cemetery, Elbert C. and wife buried at Johnson City, and the second wife of George A., buried at Beaufort, S. C.); and others of later generations.

The children:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| William Catlett, | b. 1837, d. 1837. | Infant. | |
| John De Vault, | " 1839, " 1915. | <i>m.</i> Rhoda Taylor | (1855-1943). |
| Elbert Clay, | " 1841, " 1929. | " Alice Robeson | (1851-1909). |
| Mary Susan, | " 1843, " 1924. | " Judge N. A. Patterson | (1827-1910). |
| James Miller, | " 1845, " 1927. | " Myra Gaines | (1856-1910). |
| Two infants. | | | |
| George Alexander, | " 1852, " 1922. | " (1) Addie Boring | (1860-1898). |
| (Twins) | | (2) Lulie Heyward | (1880-1927). |
| Addie Elizabeth, | " 1852, " 1896. | " Rev. John H. Jennings | (1837-1914). |

Also buried in the cemetery at "Sinking Spring" are Richard Carr (1783-1843) and wife Martha (1781-1844), ancestors of a well-known Johnson City family of that name; James Cassady (1775-1855) supposedly, and wife Nancy Reeves (1772-1857) uncle and aunt, Abraham Miller (1795-1847) uncle, and Sallie J. Miller (1831-1880) cousin of the Brothers, Reeves; Edmund P. Gaines (1827-1888) and wife Emily Easley (1827-1894) parents of Mrs. James M. Reeves, Sr.; Benjamin F. Jennings (1803-1886) father, and Sarah A. Roberts (1860-1925) third wife of Rev. John H. Jennings; and Rev. Edward L. Patterson (1856-1882) stepson of Mrs. Susan Patterson.

In 1905 by deed registered at Jonesboro George A. Reeves conveyed this cemetery to Stanley Reeves son of E. C. Reeves, James M. Reeves son of James M. Reeves, and John P. Reeves his own son, as trustees, and to their successors as such, as a place of burial for the legitimate descendants of Peter M. Reeves, their husbands and wives. In 1935, two trustees having died, under the provisions of the deed Stanley Reeves, the survivor, appointed by deed as their successors Elsie Reeves (Sell) daughter of James M. Reeves, Jr., deceased, and Edward Earl Reeves brother of John P. Reeves, deceased.

MARY CATHARINE DE VAULT (REEVES) and MATILDA DE VAULT (REEVES) were sisters. They were the daughters of Valentine De Vault and were born at his home in Washington County, Tennessee, Mary on February 7, 1808, and Matilda on December 19, 1814. They had the benefit of the schools of their section. Their childhood and youth were spent in the usual better class farm life of the period with its neighborhood visiting, spelling-bees and other merrymaking, camp meetings and other religious gatherings.

Mary was married on August 11, 1831 to William P. Reeves; Matilda on March 10, 1836 to his brother, Peter M. Reeves. Thereafter the story of their lives runs with that of their husbands. They were Methodists along with their husbands in the respective church relations of the latter. Both were of quiet, even disposition, and industrious. Like their husbands they were deeply religious. They were model wives and mothers. Their homes were homes of comfort and plenty. Both survived their husbands and were tenderly cared for by their children in their declining years.

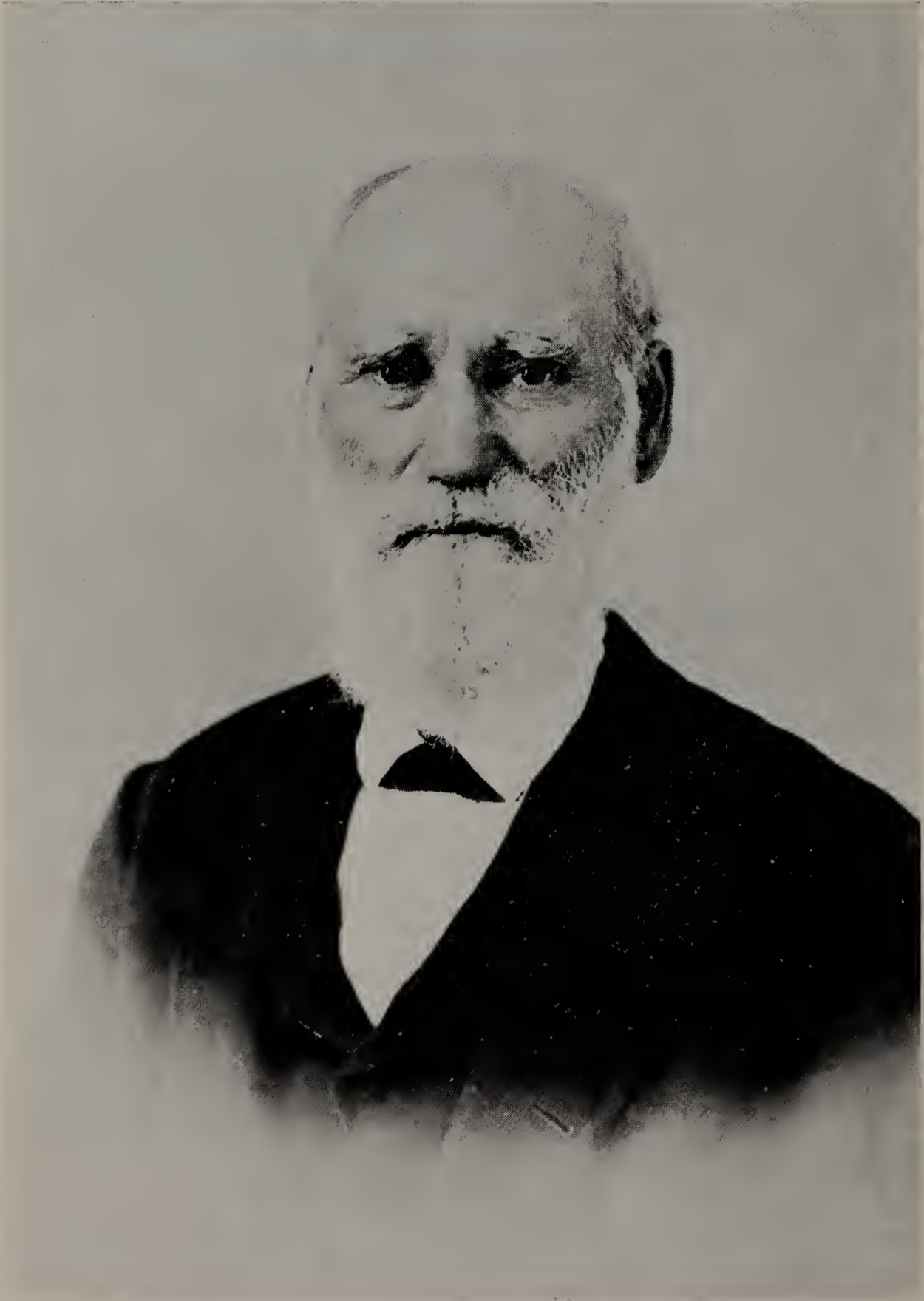
I saw Aunt Mary (usually called Polly) but once that I can remember; that in her old age on the same occasion on which I saw Uncle William. I remember her as of medium height, rather spare in build, and active. Grandmother was somewhat taller, with black hair and blue eyes, inclining to plumpness. In middle life she took on weight, but lost it in old age and became frail.

Aunt Mary remained at "Wheatland" until her death, first with her husband and after his death as a member of the family of her son William

R. Reeves. She died November 12, 1894 and was buried beside her husband at Jonesboro. In the obituary of her husband Bishop Hoss had said: "No man ever had a better wife. Through all the years, and through all fortunes, she stood squarely at his side."

First with Grandfather and then after his death Grandmother spent considerable time in her old age at the home of her daughter Susan. She died there July 1, 1896 and was buried beside her husband at "Sinking Spring." What the good bishop said of her sister could well be said of her.

In preparation of the foregoing sketches valuable assistance has been received from Rev. E. E. Wiley, D.D., second of the name, grandson of William P. Reeves.



REV. WILLIAM ROBESON (1894)

REVEREND WILLIAM ROBESON, father of Alice Robeson (Reeves), was born June 28, 1822 at the home of his father, Reverend Alexander C. Robeson, in McMinn County, Tennessee. He spent his earlier years on his father's farm, and was a healthy, robust child. When about six years of age he entered the "old field school" where he received a rudimentary education; and afterward attended better schools. In his early teens he was put under the instruction of Isaac S. Edens, a young man far ahead of the ordinary country pedagogue of the times, who made his tasks a pleasure, assisted him to advance rapidly, and inspired him with a desire to be and do something in the world. He later received an academic education at Decatur Academy in Meigs County, Tennessee under the instruction of Ezekiel Hildreth, a scholarly old gentleman from Virginia.

From his youth young Robeson had led a moral life; but on September 9, 1839 at Cedar Springs Camp-ground two miles south-west of Athens, he reconsecrated himself to Christian life. From that time forward he felt that he was called to preach. He was licensed to preach on September 9, 1844 at Cedar Springs Camp-ground; and in October of that year at Reams Creek Camp-ground, North Carolina he was admitted to membership in the Holston Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church; that being the last session of that conference in the undivided Church. He continued for the remainder of his life in that conference which from 1845 until long after his death was a conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He married in January, 1851.

In 1844-45 he served Little River circuit; 1845-46, Pikeville Circuit; 1846-47 Pearisburg circuit; 1847-48, Cleveland circuit; 1848-49, Wythville circuit; 1849-51, Jonesboro station; 1851-53, Abingdon circuit; 1853-54, Blountville circuit. In 1854-55 he rested at home, his health impaired by the exposure of his work. In 1855-56 he served Lebanon circuit; 1856-57, Jonesboro circuit; 1857-58, Greeneville circuit; 1858-60, Rheatown circuit, during which period he surrendered his charge on account of poor health and went to his farm at Rheatown, Tennessee where he remained until 1865, preaching occasionally. In 1866-69 he was presiding elder of Rogersville (later Morristown) district; and in 1869-72 of Abingdon district. In 1872-73 he again served Blountville circuit. In 1873-74 he was presiding elder of Asheville district. In 1874, in bad health and afflicted with rheumatism, he was superannuated at his own request. He was a member of the General Conference of the Church, South, which con-

vened in 1858 at Nashville, Tennessee, and was elected to that of 1862 which because of war conditions was not convened.

At the close of the War Between the States he exchanged his Rheatown farm for a farm on the Bristol-Kingsport highway two miles west of Blountville, Tennessee, later known as "Highland Mills" from the mill located thereon. He operated the farm, and in earlier years the mill also. He continued interested in his Church, preaching occasionally and attending the annual conference thereof when practicable, until old age.

In his prime Grandfather Robeson was six feet, one inch in height, never corpulent; with high forehead, dark hair, rather penetrating blue eyes, and heavy brows. He was neat in appearance and went clean-shaven until old age, when he wore full beard. His appearance and mannerisms suggested his Scotch ancestry. An excellent likeness of him appears in a large steel-engraved picture of the General Conference of 1858. He was a man of conviction, uncompromising when his mind was once made up, and exact in his methods. I once heard Grandmother laughingly say that when he came courting, riding on horseback, his toes always stuck out from the sides of his horse in a definite pattern. His son James once said of him in jest: "If he found a brier-patch in his way he would walk through it on the principle that it had no business there." Though not demonstrative, he was devoted to his family.

He was in hearty sympathy with the Church, South, in the differences that led to the separation of the original Methodist Episcopal Church into two churches. He was, however, an avowed enemy of slavery.

In 1857 a resolution was submitted to the respective conferences of his Church looking to elimination from the Church Discipline of the old rule against the African slave trade, on the theory that the rule injured the influence of the Church among slaveholders. When the resolution reached the Holston Conference the Rev. Robeson was one of a minority of four that voted against it. During the debate on this resolution, Bishop Early presiding, he spoke against it using the expression, "This nefarious African slave traffic." He was rebuked by Bishop Early for his language. "I repeat," said Robeson, "This nefarious African slave traffic." "Take your seat, Sir," said the bishop. "I'll not do it, Sir," said Robeson; nor did he until he had finished. The conference nevertheless showed its confidence in him by electing him a delegate to the ensuing General Conference, where according to his instructions he voted for the resolution, but with an explanation of his vote.

It is said that after the close of the mentioned conference of 1857 Rev. William G. Brownlow, who was there present as a visitor, accused Robeson editorially in the Knoxville Whig of being an abolitionist; that he replied in the Whig and Brownlow wrote a rejoinder, bringing from Robeson another article which the Whig refused to publish, but which was subsequently published in another paper (*Obituary*, below).

He seems at first not have accepted wholeheartedly the use of church organs, on their introduction. When the placing of such an organ in the Methodist church at Bristol, Tennessee was under consideration he debated the matter publicly with another Methodist divine, in which debate he is said to have referred to the organ as "a box of whistles." Nor was he alone in this, as Bishop McTyeire is said to have declared: "When you brought that melodeon in here you brought the Devil in with it." In the latter sixties he took the negative in a newspaper debate with a prominent citizen of Sullivan County as to whether convict labor should be used in building the county roads, with the result that the scheme was abandoned. (*Historic Sullivan—Taylor*, pp. 179, 238).

In 1874 he was challenged by a prominent Baptist divine to debate baptism by immersion, and he promptly accepted. The debate, which took place at Blountville, lasted for three days and was attended from near and far. There was apparently no formal decision on the debate. Taylor, who recorded it, mentioned as "the referees" two ministers, one a Lutheran, the other a Baptist (*Historic Sullivan*, above, p. 187). These were apparently only moderators. A later account remarked: "Of course no decision was reached" (*Next to the News—Mynders*, *Chattanooga Times*, Sept. 6, 1945). However, those of his own faith who heard the debate seem to have been well satisfied with the effort of the Rev. Robeson.

Notwithstanding his views on slavery, when the war opened he felt that his allegiance was due to his state and espoused the Southern cause. Physically unfit for service, he remained during the war at his Rheatown home. On one occasion Federal troops camped on his farm, burned the fences for firewood, and left the farm destitute of stock, grain and food, even carrying away dishes and other table equipment from the house. Regardless of consequences he scathingly denounced a Federal officer who was leading a foraging party through the place. Itemized statements of property taken which seem to have been submitted to Federal army authorities have been found in his papers, covering 2 horses, 1 yoke of steers, 3 milch cows, 1 calf, 8 sheep, 6 hogs, besides corn, hay, rails and other items;

total value as then listed, over \$1000. So far as known he received no compensation.

The mistreatment in East Tennessee at the close of the war, by a lawless element called "bushwhackers," of former adherents of the Confederacy—even preachers, is history. Grandfather escaped personal injury; but he received threatening letters, some unsigned, some signed "Regulators," or "Mountain Men"; for example: "Bill Robeson, if you preach tonight you die tomorrer." A tenant ordered him to stay off his own land or be shot, claiming that the land was to be turned over to the tenant by the government. Did he preach that night; did he abandon his land? No one who knew him would ask an answer.

Grandfather was a pioneer preacher of a church that came into being as a protest against form and ceremony. I sometimes think that if he had lived in Scotland at the proper time he would have been a Covenanter. Positive in his opinions, he was not narrow or bigoted. Had he been either he could not have been twice elected to the governing body of his Church. He accepted the decision on the organ question and thereafter many times took part in church services where an organ was in use. In this he merely exemplified Pope's lines:

"Be not the first by whom the new are tried,
"Nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

On January 2, 1901 relatives and friends gathered by invitation at the "Highland Mills" home to celebrate the golden wedding of the Rev. and Mrs. Robeson. Not all the living children could be present; but Alice and husband were there; Esq. William; James, later president of Weaverville College, North Carolina; and of course Aunt Martha. After a social forenoon an enjoyable dinner was served at a table decorated with ferns, showing at one end the date, January 2, 1851; at the other January 2, 1901. Afterward all gathered before an open fire where the Rev. Robeson stood and spoke of the days of courtship and marriage and the experiences of husband and wife during his active ministry and in later years. This was followed by a talk by Rev. D. V. York. Songs were sung and reminiscences exchanged, until with the waning day the guests regretfully dispersed.

It was a great occasion in my boyhood when I could visit "Highland Mills." The two story dwelling house stood on a slight knoll about one-

hundred yards from the highway which it faced toward the north across a meadow from which it was separated by a yard fence. Just beyond the highway was the barn; and a hundred yards further north stood the mill with a large overshot water-wheel. On the side of the hill above the mill was the mill-pond fed by water diverted from the branch that flowed from the north meadow, through the barnyard, across the highway and to the west of the house. I would watch the water-wheel and then go inside the mill and listen to the roar of the burrs where flour and meal were ground. Sometimes I would see the miller stamp "Highland Mills" on the sacks of flour.

In front of the house were two tall cedar trees, the ground under them matted with ivy. Below the house to the west was the woodpile with stacks of firewood; and further down under the trees by the branch were the large spring where I industriously tried to catch minnows, and the springhouse where the milk and butter were kept. The house was large and roomy with old-fashioned fire-places in the older part. I would sometimes peep into a dark closet under the front stair and see the ends of the logs of which that part of the house was built, not visible elsewhere as the house was ceiled and weatherboarded.

Grandfather finally disposed of the mill; but otherwise the place remained substantially the same until his death, after which it was sold. I scarcely recognized the place when I visited it in later years. The barn and the mill were gone; the paved highway covered the ford of the branch; and the open spring had given way to a hydraulic ram.

Grandfather grew more feeble with the passing years. On May 29, 1905 he lay down on his bed to rest; and lying there he died without a struggle. He was buried in the family plot in the Blountville cemetery.

In his obituary by Rev. R. N. Price, D.D., Dr. Price wrote: "As a preacher he was decidedly above mediocrity, both as to matter and manner. His themes were well analyzed, and his meaning on no point could be mistaken. * * * From what we know of his positive convictions and emphatic likes and dislikes, one would have supposed that, in his style of preaching, he would have been denunciatory, when in fact it was generally characterized by unusual pathos and tenderness."

Rev. T. F. Glenn, D.D. wrote of him: "He was never dictatorial nor dogmatic. * * * He was an able expounder of the Divine Word. He was master of a clear, forcible, luminous style. He wasted no words. He indulged in no rhetorical pyrotechnics. He wielded a genuine Damascus blade 'of Heavenly temper keen.'"

The children:

| | |
|--|---|
| Alice Dulcina, | b. 1851, d. 1909. m. E. C. Reeves. |
| Nancy Catharine, | " 1853, " 1889. Unmarried. |
| Felicia Cornelia, | " 1856, " 1920. " Thomas M. Weaver. |
| William Alexander, | " 1858, " 1928. " (1) Amanda Easley; (2) Amanda McKinney, widow. |
| Charles Vincent, | " 1860, " 1878. Unmarried. |
| Amanda Gallatin, | " 1864, " 1886. Unmarried. |
| Lovic Wightman, | " 1868, " 1868. Infant. |
| James Marvin, | " 1870, " 1950. Unmarried. |
| Martha Hennard, member of family, not related, | " 1841, " 1924. Unmarried. |

Alice and husband are buried at Johnson City; Nancy, Charles, Amanda, Lovic and James with their father at Blountville; William, his wives, his mother and Aunt Martha at Mount Airy Church near Morristown; T. M. Weaver at Morristown; and Felicia at Douglas, Arizona where she died while on a visit to her daughter, Mrs. D. F. Wilson. ("Rob" of Robeson pronounced as in Robert.)

ADALINE PATTON EASLEY (ROBESON) was born February 8, 1832 at the home of her father, Vincent Easley, in Sullivan County, Tennessee. In her infancy she was baptized by Rev. Thomas Wilkerson who had baptized her mother, and later baptized her eldest daughter. Industrious and painstaking in her home tasks, she nevertheless enjoyed the social life of the neighborhood in which she was an acknowledged favorite. Her education began at Easley's schoolhouse near her home. She studied under Miss Susan B. Landon, Mrs. David B. Carter and Prof. George Thornton. She was proficient in her classes, particularly in mathematics. It was related that on one occasion Prof. Thornton propounded to his class a difficult problem in mathematics, frankly telling his pupils that he expected none of them to solve it. Adaline, and she alone, solved the problem.

On January 2, 1851 Adaline was married to Rev. William Robeson at her father's home in the presence of a large gathering of relatives and friends. For a few years she accompanied her husband in his ministerial work; but as their family increased they made their home at Fall Creek,

Sullivan County, on a farm they owned; then during the war at Rheatown; and thereafter until the husband's death at "Highland Mills" near Blountville. After his death the "Highland Mills" home was sold, and the family including Mrs. Robeson, her son James, and Aunt Martha removed to a farm south of Morristown, Tennessee, near the home of her son William who had previously gone there from Sullivan County. This was her home until death.

Grandmother was a tall, comely young woman, with dark-brown hair and blue eyes, distinctly of the Easley type; but her weight increased in middle life. She was in many ways an unusual woman; intellectual, of even temperament and with a fine sense of humor. She was a Methodist from childhood. She took great interest in her ancestry; and to her more than to anyone else are we indebted for the story of that ancestry. She was a fine mother and she loved her grandchildren. She died on November 11, 1913 at her home, and was buried at Mount Airy church.

As in the case of her husband, her obituary was written by the Rev. Dr. Price, who said: "Of Mrs. Robeson it may be truthfully said that she had the mind of a philosopher combined with the modesty, gentleness and tenderness of a true woman. * * * Those who knew her intimately in her home beheld the highest expression of her greatness in the relations of mother and wife. * * * Hers was the death of the righteous, and she went in peace to her incorruptible reward."

In his tribute to her husband the Rev. Dr. Glenn had said: "I shall never forget that hospitable home near Blountville as I knew it in the eighties. I have a vivid recollection of the kindly greetings and hearty handclasp of the Christian wife who presided with queenly grace and dignity over the home."

The record would not be complete without a reference to Aunt Martha Hennard. She was born May 25, 1841. Not a relative, she came as a young girl to make her home with the Robesons; and except for a few years in the early eighties spent with her relatives she was for the remainder of her life a member of the family. To her my grandparents were "Father"—"Mother." She was kind and affectionate. The grandchildren she loved as if her own. In her last years she was almost blind and was cared for by her foster brother, James M. Robeson. She died February 27, 1924 and was buried at Mount Airy church.

One amusing incident of her life should be recorded. When, during the war, Federal troops camped on the farm at Rheatown and pillaged the home, there was no food left except some potatoes buried in the garden.

Martha vowed that the soldiers should not have her potatoes. She cut a strong corn-stalk, and that night stood on guard near the potato hole, in the shadow of the spring-house; my mother, a child, standing beside her. Presently two soldiers came into the garden, stooped, and began digging out the potatoes. The next they knew they were being whacked over their backs by Martha's corn-stalk. They fled without delay. Martha had previously suffered from a throat ailment and talked in a whisper. When in her excitement she was reporting the encounter in the garden it was noticed that she had recovered her voice. She talked normally thereafter.

SECTION II.

Ancestry of William P. and Peter M. Reeves

Edward P. Reeves and wives Mary Miller and Susan Pierce; Peter Miller (Mueller) and wife Elizabeth Bohun; Johann Diel Bohun and wives ——— and Mary.

Edward Reeves and wife Jane Melvin; Ancestry of Edward Reeves; Daniel Melvin and wife Jane Thomas. (The Suttons.)

EDWARD PROTHERO REEVES, father of William P. and Peter M. Reeves, was born August 7, 1777 at the home of his father, Edward Reeves, two miles from what is now Parkersburg, Bladen County, North Carolina. In 1796 he migrated to Washington County, Tennessee, carrying behind him on horseback his sister Nancy. There he married in 1798 Mary, daughter of Peter Miller, and had by her four children. His wife died in 1807, seven days after the birth of his son Peter. He remained a widower until 1815 when he married Susan Pierce of Carter County, Tennessee and removed to Stony Creek in Carter County, where he remained until after the birth on August 28, 1820 of Robert, third child of that marriage; after which he removed with this family to Cumberland (later Clinton) County, Kentucky, near the Tennessee line. There ten more children were born; and there was his home for the remainder of his life. His sister remained in Washington County and there married James Cassady.

After Edward's first marriage he resided near what was in later years the W. P. Harris residence north of Fairview Avenue in Johnson City, Tennessee. There is some reason to believe that his residence was a two story brick building that still stands near a spring east of the Harris residence. He later removed to what was afterward known as the Cunningham place two miles southeast of Jonesboro, on the Cherokee road; and there were born his sons William and Peter. A two story frame house with large stone chimney, which presumably was his home, stood there until about 1937 when it was destroyed by fire.

How long Edward maintained this second home after the death of his first wife is not definitely known. On January 19, 1802 he purchased a tract of 100 acres of land lying "on the waters of Cherokee," to which he added 21 acres on February 2, 1807; but on February 6, 1807 he sold the whole to his father-in-law Peter Miller. The infant Peter was taken about the last date by his grandparents; and the three other children then or

later. William was reared by his uncle Jacob Miller, and Peter by his uncle Peter Miller. None of these children was taken to Carter County. When Edward removed to Kentucky his elder daughter had just married (Aug. 30, 1820); and his second daughter, said to have been a beautiful girl, had died of an acute illness, probably appendicitis.

Edward made one return trip from Tennessee to Bladen County, taking with him on that occasion an acorn which he planted at his father's home. From it grew a large tree that stood for many years but was finally blown down by a storm. His sister Nancy made a return trip with her husband soon after her marriage. Edward's brothers, Jeremiah and William, seem to have visited him on one occasion in Carter County (See Ancestry of Edward Reeves). Edward never revisited Washington County after his removal to Kentucky; but in later years his son James spent a year there with his half-brothers, William and Peter; and his son George visited them during the war period; returning to visit their children about 1907. When I was a small boy I heard my grandfather Peter speak feelingly of a letter of affection and good advice that he received when a young man from his father in Kentucky.

Edward seems to have been trained as a carpenter. In 1897 when I began inquiry as to the North Carolina family Gaston P. Sutton of Bladen County wrote: "I am writing from a pine table 20 by 26 inches, pinned together with wooden pins, made by Edward Reeves a hundred years ago." However, Edward seems to have been a farmer both in Tennessee and in Kentucky. He was a rather unusual character. He had a ready wit, liked fun and enjoyed a practical joke. He was strong and agile and was said never to have been thrown or whipped in a fight. He was a remarkable swimmer; and yet he was drowned.

In March, 1908 I visited near Whitewright, Texas his son Robert, then old and feeble; and near Chattanooga, Oklahoma his son George, who had just taken his second wife and had removed there from Munday, Texas. Uncle Robert told me that his father was five feet ten inches tall, weighed 175 pounds, had black curly hair and "blue eagle eyes," went clean shaven, was a seventh son, had 14 children and 93 grandchildren who lived to be grown, joined the Baptist Church in 1838, was drowned in May, 1841, and was buried in Griffin graveyard southwest of Albany, Kentucky and one mile northeast from Wolfe River church. His grandson George A. Reeves was said to have resembled him strongly.

Several stories were told me in my youth of the feats and escapades of Edward P. Reeves. He and David Haynes, father of Confederate Senator Landon C. Haynes and grandfather of Mrs. John D. Reeves, were

friends and played many practical jokes on each other. On one occasion Haynes returned home at night apparently expecting a trick by his friend. "Ah, Neddie," said he, "you have been here but I am ready for you." He stood off and pushed his door open with a stick, expecting a bucket of water to fall. Nothing fell. So he stepped inside—and into the cellar. Neddie had been there and had removed the floorboards.

Once he came to a river where some young men were swimming. He took off his clothes and joined them but played around the margin of the water as though afraid. One of the others proposed to carry Edward on his back out to a big rock. "No, you will leave me there," said Edward. The other insisted, and Edward finally yielded and was carried out to the rock. He was left there while the others laughed at his entreaties to be taken back. Finally, wearying of his fun, the one who had carried him out went to get him. As he approached the rock Edward dived over him, catching him between his legs with his head under water. Then Edward swam to the bank while the feet of the other threshed the water. When they arrived the joker was almost drowned.

Once while crossing the country on foot Edward came to a river ford. About that time a stranger appeared, riding a pony. Edward asked to be allowed to ride across behind him. The stranger refused, saying that his pony could not carry both, and started across. As he passed near the bank on which Edward was standing Edward sprang on behind him, pitched him off, and rode across with the infuriated stranger splashing after. He rode on ahead, hitched the pony to await its owner, and went on his way.

On another occasion while Edward was eating his dinner there was a call. He went out and found a stranger on horseback. "Are you Edward Reeves?" inquired the stranger. "Yes," said Edward. "Well, I hear that you have never been whipped, and neither have I; and I have come to settle the matter." "Hitch your horse," said Edward, "and I will be out when I have finished my dinner." The stranger alighted and sat down on the grass. When Edward had finished his dinner he went out, and the fight was on. From the description given me by an uncle it must have been a great fight. Finally the stranger was down, Edward on top. He was allowed to rise. Without looking back he went to his horse, got on and rode away.

There was in the neighborhood a rugged old character named Keezel. One night he had a dream that made him think he would die soon. He wanted an epitaph written in rhyme. Having heard that Edward could make a rhyme, he sent for him. Edward came and they sat down on either side of a table with a bottle between them. Edward would improvise a

couplet, pass it over, and take a drink while Keezel read. Finally he had Keezel at the gate of Heaven, ready to enter. Edward wrote the last couplet, passed it over, took the last drink from the bottle and got away. The couplet read:

“At last in slipped the Devil like a weasel,
“And down to Hell he dragged old Keezel.”

On May 6, 1841, accompanied by some of his older sons, Edward on horseback with his young son Edward behind him attempted to ford the swollen Wolfe River that ran near his home. As his horse was climbing out on the further side the bank broke under its feet, throwing father and son into the water. Knowing their father to be an excellent swimmer the other sons were not at first alarmed. Edward placed his small son on his shoulders and started swimming; but apparently stunned by the fall he began swimming down stream. The others ran ahead to where a tree leaned far out over the water. From it they saw him pass, under the water, the boy on his shoulders, mechanically going through the motions of swimming. Both were drowned, at a point near the Tennessee line. The bodies were recovered some days later and were buried in Griffin graveyard, as above.

The children—first family:

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Elizabeth, | b. 1799, d. at 85, | Sullivan Co., Tenn. | m. John P. Lisenby. |
| Catharine, | " 1800, " 1818, | Washgtn. " " | Unmarried. |
| William P., | " 1803, " 1885, | " " " | " Mary C. De Vault. |
| Peter M., | " 1807, " 1891, | " " " | " Matilda De Vault. |

Children—second family:

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Arthur D., | b. 1816, d. 1898, | Belknap, Texas | m. (1) Annie Wright; " (2) Mary Burchett. |
| David P., | " 1818, " 1862, | Battle of Shiloh | " Mary J. Gamewell. |
| Robert T., | " 1820, " at 93, | Whitewright, Texas | " Lavinia Brown. |
| Jane M., | " 1821, " old, | Clinton Co., Ky. | " (1) Jackson Brown; " (2) Greenberry Little. |
| James E., | " 1823, " at 85, | " " " | " (1) Mary Phillips. " (2) Celina Bilberry. |
| Hiram G., | " 1824, " 1861, | " " " | " Frances Armstrong. |
| Hardy P., | " 1826, " 1897, | Belknap, Texas | " (1) Pamela Brown; " (2) Sarah Keaton. |
| Nancy, | " 1828, " ———, | Willow Grove, Tenn. | " F. M. Bristow. |
| Sarah, | " 1830, " 1858, | Clinton Co., Ky. | " Sim Scrivener. |
| Edward P., | " 1832, " 1841, | " " " | Child. |
| Otis T., | " 1834, " 1838, | " " " | " |
| Damaris, | " 1836, " 1838, | " " " | " |
| George W., | " 1837, " 1910, | near Chattanooga, Oklahoma. | " (1) Mary A. Parrish; " (2) Helen Phillips. |

Robert T. was a Baptist minister. David P. appears in the Confederate records of his organization as first lieutenant, Company "C," 28th Tenn. Volunteer Infantry, when killed April 6, 1862 at the battle of Shiloh. James E. was sergeant, then first sergeant in the same company, and served until the surrender. Hiram G. was a sergeant in Captain Evans' company, 4th Tenn. Infantry, in the Mexican War. He organized a volunteer company of infantry for the Confederate service, but died by homicide, apparently before being mustered into service. Hardy P. was first lieutenant, Company "F," 84th Tenn. Infantry, C.S.A. George W. was a soldier in Company "H," 1st Tenn. Infantry, C.S.A., and was wounded at the battle of Murfreesboro, and again at the battle of Chickamauga.

Kentucky did not secede; which explains why all the foregoing services were in Tennessee organizations. Of the sons of the second family alive after the war, all went to Texas except James. George thereafter removed to Oklahoma about 1907 and died there. David who lived in Overton County, Tenn., visited Texas before the war, but returned to enter the Confederate service.

The Kentucky home of Edward P. Reeves which was across Wolf River from Griffin graveyard, is now covered by Dale Hollow Reservoir. The graveyard is on a ridge about one-half mile from the reservoir.

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MARY MILLER (REEVES), daughter of Peter Miller, was born about 1778, presumably in Virginia before the arrival of her parents in the Tennessee country. Little is known of her childhood. In 1798 she was married to Edward P. Reeves and became the mother of four children. She was a faithful wife and mother and is said to have been a comely woman. Her son Peter spoke of her as "my lovely mother."

She died January 23, 1807, seven days after the birth of her son Peter. She was buried in the old city cemetery at Jonesboro. Her son Peter on reaching manhood attempted to identify her grave, but without success. This suggests the question, whether her daughter Catharine was buried beside her. (See Elizabeth Bohun).

SUSAN PIERCE (REEVES) was born September 22, 1794 in Carter County, Tennessee. In 1815 she was married to Edward P. Reeves (second wife). She lived with him on Stony Creek in Carter County where she bore him three children; and thereafter in Kentucky where ten more children were born. She probably influenced him in his final church affiliation. She was said to have been an active woman who enjoyed outdoor life, and to have died in old age from a fall on ice. She was buried beside her husband. Her date of birth, as above, is from an old Bible in the possession of one of her descendants (not the Edward P. Reeves Bible which was lost in a fire).

In a letter of February, 1898, Rev. Robert T. Reeves, now deceased, gave the name of his father as Edward P. Reeves, with dates of birth and death as set out above; and stated that his mother was born in 1796 and died in August, 1881. However, the tombstones of husband and wife are said to show respectively the dates of birth and death, as follows:

August 7, 1776—May 6, 1841.
1795—July 17, 1880.

As may be noted, the date of birth of the wife, as said to be on the tombstone, is indefinite. The date of erection of the tombstone of the husband is unknown.

PETER MILLER (MUELLER), father of Mary Miller (Reeves), was apparently a native German. Our first definite knowledge of him begins with his marriage about 1773 to Elizabeth Bohun in Frederick (now Carroll) County, Maryland. This sketch will proceed from that point, leaving for later discussion the question of his origin.

Peter Miller did not remain long in Maryland after his marriage. He seems to have moved down the Valley of Virginia to Augusta (later Rockingham) County, where went also his brother-in-law Abraham Boon (Bohn). He remained there several years; and there two of his children were born. He subsequently continued down the valley and to Washington County, Tennessee, in the flow of German immigration that gave to upper East Tennessee some of its best known families. An old Negro retainer of the Miller family told me many years ago that the family came from Rockingham County. This family should not, however, be confused with that of Adam Miller who arrived on the Shenandoah about 1727.

Just when Peter Miller reached Washington County is not clear. The Washington County census of 1850 shows his second known child, Jacob, born in Virginia in 1779; the first, Mary, having died prior to the census. In 1788, by deed which referred to the parties as farmers of Washington County, he purchased from John McMahan 200 acres of land in the Indian Ridge section. He probably lived on this land until he purchased in 1797 from James Ryan 258 acres of land "on the head spring of Nobb Creek," which we know to have been his final home. This lay about halfway between the present Johnson City and Jonesboro, and on both sides of the location of the present Southern Railway track and the Johnson City-Jonesboro highway which there run near each other.

The first house on the last mentioned land occupied by the Miller family stood about 300 yards north of the location of the present highway. It was of logs and was built over the mentioned spring, a not unusual arrangement in pioneer times to guard against being cut off from water in case of Indian attack. Peter thereafter constructed close by a four room, two story log house facing the east, porches front and rear. This house was occupied after his death by his son Peter, who about 1855 constructed on its north side a brick addition of three rooms running from front to rear. The log section was removed by a subsequent owner who replaced it with a room of brick, porch in front, and built a second story over both front rooms. This house still stands, the northern wall showing plainly where the second story was begun. In the rear is a smokehouse of logs apparently dating from early times, the door made of home-dressed boards and put together with homemade nails and hinges.

It was there in his comfortable log house that Peter Miller lived, a thrifty farmer, until his death. He was stout of build, German in appearance, and spoke English with a German accent. Probably at first a Lutheran, he joined the Methodist Church in old age. He read a German Bible, and at the Sunday morning breakfast table would ask a blessing in German which was made to suffice for the entire week. He was a kindly man. His grandson Peter M. Reeves could remember his playing with him when a child; and could remember when he joined the Methodist Church. A small hand-painted wooden box put together with pegs, said to have been a wedding present to his mother in Germany, later used by Peter M. Reeves as a letter-box, is in my possession.

Peter Miller had no known Revolutionary record; but he may have served in Muhlenberg's German regiment which included troops from both Pennsylvania and Virginia, no muster-roll of which has been found. He lived to old age. He left no will; the Peter Miller will of 1801 on record at Jonesboro being that of another settler who lived further down Knob Creek valley and seems to have been a member of the German Baptist Church.

In seeming anticipation of death, on August 31, 1819 he conveyed to his son Peter who resided with him, personal property consisting of livestock, farm implements, household furnishings, etc.; following this by a deed of October 20, same year, conveying the home farm to Peter, and a deed of February 4, 1820 conveying to his son Jacob the Indian Ridge place, above. He was, however, still alive on October 12, 1824, as on that date he conveyed to his son Peter a Negro woman and her four children including Digo the younger. He probably died before the close of the year.

He was buried on the farm, on a hill just south of the later constructed rail-road, as were probably others of the family (See Elizabeth Bohun). A faithful slave, Digo the elder, who survived him, was at his own request buried at his feet. With his great-grandson James P. McNeil I visited the place about 1913. It was in an open space in the edge of a wood. A considerable number of grave-stones were standing, all of rough limestone without inscription. No grave could be indentified. Mr. McNeil then stated that soldiers had been buried there during the old war; of which army I do not remember. I visited the place again in 1947. Mr. McNeil had been gathered to his fathers, and I found it with difficulty. One single stone was standing and another was seen lying prone in the thick coating of dead leaves; while through the tree-tops the sunlight faintly caressed the spot where the bones of master and slave, and soldier whether of Blue or Gray, lay moldering in the common dust.

The listing of the children of Peter Miller is complicated by the fact that there were at that time in Washington County and Sullivan adjoining several Miller families of no known connection. The census of 1850 shows no less than 23 heads of families or sole persons of the name in the two counties born in 1801 or earlier, besides others of later years. The small percentage of these of out-of-state birth, found in the earlier group, is surprising.

Of the known children of Peter Miller, the years of birth and death are as indicated below, except that the date of birth of John has been estimated. From all available data, including a statement of 1917 by E. C. Reeves, the following list has been adduced:

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------|----------|---|
| Mary, | b. 1778, circ., | d. 1807. | m. Edward P. Reeves. |
| Jacob, | " 1779, | " 1858. | " (1) Elizabeth Range; (2) Hannah Broyles. |
| John, | " 1785 (?), | " ———. | " ———. (To Roane Co., Tenn.) |
| Peter, | " 1792, | " 1863. | " Mary Hunt. |
| Abraham, | " 1795, | " 1847. | " (1) ————Bayless; (2) ————Sherfy. |

This list corresponds to the list of Miller distributees of the estate of their uncle Abraham Boon (Bohn) of Augusta County, Virginia, no doubt compiled in Washington County; set out by Mrs. Whedon in her genealogy of the Bohun family (See Johann Diel Bohun). Mrs. Wedon, however, included in her own list of the children of Peter Miller two others not appearing in the mentioned list of distributees or in the census of 1850 as of that period: James (Big Jim), listed without dates but with children Sallie, Jacob and Azor; and Jane (*b.* 1781) who married Reuben Clearwaters.

I knew of "Big Jim" many years ago but did not understand him to have been a son of Peter Miller the elder. Sarah (Sallie) J. Miller (1831-1880), understood to have been a ward of Peter M. Reeves and shown by the mentioned census as a member of his family, died and was buried at his "Sinking Spring" home where her father Abraham Miller lived in his last days, died and was buried. Azor, born 1842, was a son of Jacob Miller, born 1807 (Census 1850; Hist. of Tenn.—Goodspeed). The statement of E. C. Reeves, above, mentioned James, son of Abraham Miller by his first wife; and the will of Abraham Miller, executed in 1847, mentions a son James A. From this I conclude that James (Big Jim) was not a son of Peter Miller the elder, but was a half-brother of Sarah J. Miller; in which conclusion I am supported by a statement of Mrs. Samuel H. Hunt, now deceased, sister of James P. McNeil, above.

The inclusion by Mrs. Whedon of Jane in her list follows the findings of Rev. John F. Clearwaters who in 1915-16 corresponded with me and others in an attempt to ascertain the ancestry of his great-grandmother Jane Miller; finally reaching the conclusion that she was a daughter of Peter Miller the elder. The Rev. Clearwaters who relied mainly on a letter of 1888 from his great-uncle Jacob Clearwaters, stated that Jane, whose parents were of German ancestry, was born in or near Baltimore in 1781, went when ten years of age with her parents to a place near Shepherdstown, Virginia (now West Va.), and thence with them when she was sixteen to East Tennessee, and was married in 1802 at Jonesboro to Reuben Clearwaters; that she had a sister, name not stated, who married David Clearwaters brother of Reuben; and that Jacob Clearwaters who visited there as a child spoke of "Uncle Jake and Abe and Peter," and returned there in 1841 for his second marriage (marriage confirmed by Jonesboro record). Both sisters and their husbands went west.

According to that letter Jane and her parents did not reach Washington county until 1797, ten years or more after the arrival of Peter Miller. Furthermore Mrs. Whedon did not mention the sister of Jane. Even if a daughter Jane could have escaped notice it seems incredible that there should have been no tradition of two sisters who reached maturity and married brothers after the Miller family reached its final home; and there is no explanation why a son and two daughters should have been omitted in the distribution of the estate of Abraham Boon (Bohn), as above. No substantiating evidence that Peter Miller lived at Baltimore or Shepherdstown has been adduced. In my early inquiries I heard of no daughter except Mary. The considerable gaps between the years of birth of Jacob and Peter are probably accounted for by infants who died young and were forgotten.

Under all the facts I feel constrained to adhere to the list of the children first above set out. Mrs. Whedon now agrees that James (Big Jim) should not be included; and that Sallie was the daughter of Abraham Miller.

That Peter Miller was German born is indicated by his speech, appearance and marital alliance, and by family tradition. However, his identification among German arrivals at Philadelphia is rendered difficult by the frequency of the surname written sometimes Mueller, sometimes Muller, sometimes Miller; and even of the first name, Peter.

Peter Miller's father-in-law, Johann Diel Bohun (age 30), arrived at Philadelphia in September, 1741; along with him Abraham Hess (age 20) and Michael Hess (age 24). In November, 1740 there had arrived

together Henrich Dielboen (age 16), Abraham Haas (age 27), Johannes Muller (age 20), and Johann Peter Muller (age 25); and there arrived in September, 1753 Peter, Johannes, Abraham and Jacob Miller (Muller), ages not stated. However, there arrived September 15, 1749 on the ship Phoenix eight persons listed by the name Miller (Muller), including those named next below, along with them Jacob Has; ages not stated. (See Penna. German Pioneers—Strassburger—Hinke.)

In this connection I note a tradition of the Woodstock, Virginia, Miller family which says of the last mentioned arrivals: "Among those named were Jacob, Christian, Philip and Peter Muller, traditionally the sons of Ulrich Mueller a burgher of Zweibrucken. According to our traditions the Miller family stopped for a season in York, Pennsylvania, then two settled permanently in Pennsylvania, one went to Maryland, and the fourth, Jacob Miller with his wife Barbara and six children crossed into Virginia * * *" (History of Shenandoah County, Va.—Wayland). This distribution seems to be substantiated. An investigation for which I am indebted to the Historical Society of York County, Pennsylvania indicates that a Christian Miller and a Philip Muller were living in York County subsequent to the date of arrival of this group, but discloses no record of a Peter or a Jacob who might have settled there shortly after such date. York County was just across the state line from Frederick County, Maryland, where our Peter Miller married.

While only male immigrants over sixteen years of age were required to sign a declaration of allegiance on arrival, it is doubtful that on arrival of a large group of immigrants the rule was strictly followed (See Rupp's Thirty Thousand Names—Prolegomena). It may be that Peter was under age but signed along with his brothers, particularly as the list shows no ages. In any event the mentioned tradition with its supporting investigation is interesting.

ELIZABETH BOHUN (MILLER), daughter of Johann Diel Bohun, was born about 1751; was married about 1773 to Peter Miller, apparently at her home in Frederick (now Carroll) County, Maryland; and ultimately arrived with him in Washington County, Tennessee. It was well understood among the next indicated families that she was one of three sisters who married respectively Leonard Pouder, Jacob Hoss and Peter Miller; whence the basic kinship of the Pouder, Hoss and Miller families of Washington County. There was also a tradition among the later generations of these families that the sisters were relatives of Daniel Boone the Tennessee and Kentucky frontiersman, which would have made them descendants of the English Boone family of eastern Pennsylvania (See *The Boone Family—Spraker*). However, this last mentioned tradition has been recently disproved by two genealogists, Mrs. Mary Hoss Headman and Mrs. Nellie Woods Whedon, who working separately reached the same conclusion of German ancestry (See *Johann Diel Bohun*).

The cause of the mentioned error is not hard to find. The first mentioned families did have a relative named Daniel Boone (Boon), a Bohun descendant, a miller by occupation, who lived in Franklin County, Virginia. There is extant a letter of October, 1810 from Henry Hoss of Washington County, Tennessee, son of Jacob Hoss, to his "Dear Cousin" Daniel Boone of Franklin County, recited to be for forwarding by the hand of Jacob Pouder who had been visiting Mr. Hoss, stating his information that Boone had become a miller and was still unmarried, and suggesting that it was time for him "to ketch some of the old maids from complaining." The letter is signed, "Your devoted servant and affectionate cousin, Henry Hoss."

Little is known of the personal life of Elizabeth. She was no doubt a worthy wife of a hardy pioneer, and a good mother not only to her own children, but also to the orphaned Reeves grandchildren who came into her care. She probably survived her husband for a short time, living with her son Peter at the old home.

It has been supposed that she was buried in the old Jonesboro cemetery where her grave has been lost; but I have come to doubt that. Her daughter Mary had been buried there in 1807; and Mary's son, Peter M. Reeves, on reaching manhood had searched for her grave without success. Mary's daughter Catharine had in the meantime died in 1818, and we have no tradition as to her place of burial. We know that Peter Miller was buried at the home-place. I now think that both Elizabeth and Catharine were buried there.

JOHANN DIEL BOHUN (Surname pronounced "Boon"), father of Elizabeth Bohun (Miller), was a German from the Palatinate. He landed with his family at Philadelphia on or about September 23, 1741, from the ship Marlboro; and qualified there on that date giving his age as 30, thus indicating 1711 as the year of his birth. He finally settled in Frederick (now Carroll) County, Maryland, where he became a prosperous farmer. He died about 1764, possibly in Germany, as his will, executed in 1761 and signed Johann Diel Bohn, reciting that he was about to depart on a voyage to Germany, was probated in April, 1764 in Frederick County; and his grave has not been found.

Three autograph signatures of Johann in German have been found. Two made on landing and substantially alike have been reproduced by *Strassburger* who translates them "Johann Dielbohnn." However, it would seem that in each the last word should be translated, "Diel Bohun," as the two parts of the word are separated, and Bohnn would be pronounced "Bon" in German; whereas Bohun would be pronounced "Boon," as are subsequent family name variants, Boon and Boone; the correct name probably having been Johannes Diehl Bohun. The later will signature, Bohn, indicates English language influence on the spelling. The name Bohun, in both England and Germany, is of Norman origin. (See articles by William Boone Douglas, LL.M. and Dr. John Calvin Wright, in *The Boone Bulletin*, June, 1929.)

Much time has been given to investigation of the history of the German family by Dr. Wright, Mrs. Mary Hoss Headman and Mrs. Nellie Woods Whedon, all Bohun descendants. The findings of Mrs. Whedon have been published in book form (*The German Bohne-Bohn-Boon-Boone Family of Maryland—Whedon*, 1945). I therefore sketch but briefly this family, depending for its Maryland history mainly on Mrs. Whedon's book.

Johann married twice, both times in Germany where his elder children were born. Nothing is known of his wives except that his will mentions his surviving wife, Mary. Mrs. Whedon's book lists nine children as follows; order uncertain, and apparently only Nicholas having been of the first marriage:

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Nicholas, | b. —, | m. (1) Anna Maria ———; |
| | | (2) Barbara ———; |
| | | (3) Rachel De Berry (?). |
| Jacob, | " —, | " Catrin ———. |
| Abraham, | " —, | " (1) ———; |
| | | (2) Ann Mary Saylor, widow. |
| Margaret, | " 1743, | " (1) Leonard Poudet (Powder); |
| | | (2) John Everly. |

| | | |
|------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Mary, | " ———, | " Jacob Hoss. |
| John, | " ———, | " Elizabeth —————. |
| Catharine | " 1753, | " Cornelius Sullivan. |
| Elizabeth, | " 1755, circ., | " Peter Miller (Mueller). |
| Adam, | " ———, | No information. |

Of these, as above indicated, I incline to list Elizabeth as seventh instead of eighth, with year of birth about 1751.

Mary and Elizabeth accompanied their husbands to Washington County, Tenn. There went also Leonard A. Pouder, grandson of Margaret, who married Sarah, daughter of Peter Miller, Jr.; whence the Pouder family of that county.

EDWARD REEVES, father of Edward P. Reeves, was born according to calculation in the year 1721. Most of his long life was spent in Bladen County, North Carolina, where he died. This period will be given first attention. His origin will be discussed in a later sketch. As a result of fires in the Bladen County court-houses many records of his period are missing. Most of the records found pertaining to him consist of land grants to him and deeds to and from him. Most of the grants hereinafter listed are from the North Carolina archives at Raleigh.

The first record of Edward Reeves in Bladen County is that of a warrant for 100 acres of land granted to him in 1750 when he was 29 years of age. Thereafter he received from time to time 11 other grants in that county, besides one or more deeds, running down to the year 1810 when he was 89 years of age. A grant of 1756 reported in January, 1898 by his great-grandson Albert B. Reeves of Bladen County, which has not been found, apparently followed the warrant of 1750. A grant of 1802 reported at the same time has not been found. It is not clear in all instances whether the record shows a grant or an entry subsequently followed by a grant; and in some instances there is a possibility of duplication. The list follows:

July 7, 1750, 100 acres. Petition for warrant granted by Governor and Council at New Bern (Colonial Records of N. C., Vol. IV, p. 1043).

Dec. 14, 1769, 159 acres. "On the N. E. side of N. W. River. Beginning at a Sweet Gum on the River bank," etc.

Nov. 22, 1771, 150 acres. On the west side of South River. "Beginning at a Red Oak near his own lower back corner of the land he lives on," etc.

Jan. 22, 1773, 159 acres. "On the No. E. side of the N. W. Branch of Cape Fear. Beginning at a Sweet Gum on the River Bank said to be Peter Evans' upper corner;" N. E., then S. W. "to the River Bank, then down the River to the Beginning."

Nov. 7, 1784, 100 acres. On the west side of South River. "Beginning at * * * his old corner;" north "in his old line" etc. Consideration 50 shillings per 100 acres.

Dec. 20, 1791, 10 acres. West of South River. "Joining his own line. Beginning at a pine in his own line," etc.

Dec. 20, 1791, 100 acres. On the west side of Cypress creek. "Beginning at a stake, his own corner," etc.

Dec. 20, 1791, 10 acres. West of South River. "Joining his own and Samuel Bozeman's line," etc.

Dec. 17, 1796, 150 acres. On the north side of Cypress creek. Beginning "near Duncan Sellers' corner & on Duncan Sellers' line," etc.

Dec. 17, 1796, 150 acres. On the north side of Cypress creek. "In the fork of the creek."

Dec. 17, 1796, 50 acres. "South of Cypress Creek in the pig pen Islands. Beginnings near his own corner," etc.

May 18, 1799, 100 acres. On the west side of Turnbull creek. Deed from Blackwell and Blackwell. Consideration 94 pounds, 10 shillings.

Dec. 14, 1810, 200 acres. On the west side of Cypress creek. Entered Nov. 3, 1809.

Edward Reeves arrived in Bladen County before 1750. He seems to have moved about for a while before he finally settled down as a planter and stockraiser. He did not marry until about 1767 when he was 46 years of age; his wife having been much younger than he. To this marriage were born 14 children, the youngest having been born in his 74th year. All these children except two (and Sarah who went to Louisiana after marriage, record not known) lived to old age.

Edward's first home was on the land-grant of 1756. There he erected a two-story log house; and there the elder children, including Edward P., were born and reared. This house still stands, now ceiled and weather-boarded, two miles from Parkersburg on the Wilmington-Fayetteville highway.

Jeremiah P., the eldest son, was the first to leave the parental roof. He married, about 1791, Nancy his first cousin, daughter of Nancy (Melvin) Russ, and settled near White Lake, Bladen County; finally, it would seem, on his Turnbull grant (hereinafter) in that neighborhood, where he died and was buried. When William, the second son, married Edward gave him his own home. William lived in this and another house on the place until his death, and was buried about 100 yards north of the first house. Edward removed east across a branch about one-fourth of a mile to what seems to have been the 150 acre grant of 1771, where he built another log house.

After Robert, the third son, married Edward gave him the last home, above; and there Robert lived, died and was buried. This house seems to have been a house later occupied by John Reeves, son of Robert, and is understood to be still standing, unfit for habitation. It was visited about 1916 by E. C. Reeves of Tennessee, who found in the garret an old hat

made and worn by Robert who was a hatter by occupation. Edward removed about 10 miles south-west to Turnbull creek at what was thereafter called Reeves' ford of South River, to what is supposed to have been the Blackwell purchase of 1799, where he built another log house. Edward P., fourth son, had in the meantime gone to Tennessee.

Some time after James, the sixth son, married Edward gave him the Turnbull creek place where he lived for some years and then removed to Alabama with his family and the widow of Evan, fifth son. The subsequent history of this house is not known. Edward removed to Cypress creek to what seems to have been the 1796 grants. There he built another log house on the south side of what is now the Ammon-Parkersburg highway, 15 miles east of Elizabethtown, which was his final home. This house stood until recent years. David M., the youngest son, also removed to Alabama about that time with his second wife and two sons of his first marriage.

In some early conveyances, or the record copies, Edward's surname seems to have been erroneously spelled Reaves (See Ancestry of Edward Reeves). Conveyances of land by Edward Reeves in his last years have been noted as follows: November 22, 1817 to William Reeves 235 acres, consideration "love and affection"; and April 23, 1824 to Daniel Melvin, Sr. 300 acres "on the west side of Big Turnbull," and 100 acres on the west side of Turnbull swamp. The following entries by or grants to sons of Edward have also been noted:

Robert, 1798, 50 acres "between Cypress Creek & Colly swamp."

Evan, March 20, 1807, 200 acres on "S. W. side of Turnbull Branch."

Evan, Dec. 8, 1809, 200 acres "on the E. side of Turnbull"; calling for Edward Reeves' line.

Jeremiah P., May 6, 1811, 150 acres "on the west side of Turnbull"; calling for Lennon, Edward Reeves and Evan Reeves lines.

James, Nov. 28, 1816, 75 acres "S. of the Spring Branch."

" 1818, 100 acres on "both sides of Turnbull Swamp."

" 1821, 100 acres on "both sides of Turnbull Swamp."

Edward Reeves was a reserved man who kept his own counsel. Tolliver Sutton who was but 11 years of age when he died and never saw him, once in the presence of his own son, Gaston, inquired of an old man who

had known him what kind of man Edward was; and the questioned one replied in local vernacular that Edward "believed in every man chewing his own tobacco." His descendants, even to the fourth generation, are usually men of humor who enjoy a joke; but Gaston Sutton inclined to the opinion that this characteristic is inherited from the Melvins, his wife's family, rather than from Edward.

Edward was thrifty and conservative. It was said that he never owed any man as much as five dollars at one time. He was a far-sighted man. The section where he settled was diversified by streams and swamps that had retarded its settlement; but he saw its possibilities, and there from first to last he acquired about 1400 acres of land that ultimately vindicated his judgment by increased value. He was opposed to slavery and never owned a slave. He joined the Presbyterian Church in middle life and helped to build a few miles from his home South River Chapel which stood until recent years but has now been replaced. No revolutionary record appears in his family; but Edward was 55 years of age in 1776, and his eldest son was but 7 years old.

Not much is known of Edward's personal appearance; but he was evidently a well developed man. His sons were strong, active men. Albert B. Reeves wrote in January, 1898 that his grandfather, William, could take up a barrel of whiskey by the chimes and drink from the bung; and that none of the brothers who remained in Bladen County was ever known to come out second best from a fight. So it would seem that Edward P. Reeves of Tennessee ran true to form.

Gaston Sutton wrote in February, 1898 that he had recently visited a very old woman who at 12 years of age had gone with her aunt, a sister-in-law of Edward, to visit at his home; and that she stated that Edward (who must have been in his last days) seemed very old and could scarcely walk with a cane. As related in 1947 by Sutton, on one Sunday John Melvin, brother-in-law of Edward, went to visit him and said, "How are you getting along, Eddie?" "Sitting here as peaceable as a lamb," said Edward, "but that doesn't denote long life." He died the following Sunday.

Edward Reeves died in 1826, having attained the remarkable age of 105 years. He was buried about one mile north-east from his residence, on one of his original grants where his son Evan had already been buried; and where in later years were buried his wife; his daughter Damaris and her husband Tolliver Sutton; and Maria (Peterson), second wife of the latter. For 100 years the grave of Edward Reeves, and that of his wife almost as long, had remained crudely marked and almost forgotten, when



THE GRAVES OF EDWARD REEVES AND WIFE

in September, 1926 Gaston P. Sutton, probably the last person who could identify them, erected at his own expense monuments at the graves of Edward and his wife and son, and at those of Tolliver Sutton and wives; and inclosed all with a strong iron fence.

Of the 14 children of Edward Reeves, Jeremiah Prothero, believed to have been born in 1769, was the eldest; William being next. The dates of birth of Edward Prothero, Hannah, Damaris and David Melvin are known; and that of Nancy has been calculated from the census of 1850. Rev. Robert T. Reeves stated that his father, Edward P., was a seventh son (See Edward P. Reeves); but this is considered error. Dates of birth, when not known, have been approximated from best available evidence, including census reports of 1790, 1800 and 1810 which name only heads of families. The North Carolina marriages are given as recollected by Gaston P. Sutton, and as to Hannah by Isaac J. Cain also. The list follows:

| | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------|-------------------|---|
| Jeremiah P., | b. 1769, | d. 1846, | Bladen Co., N. C. | m. Nancy Russ. |
| William, | " 1771 (?), | " 1855, | " " | " (1) Lois Bevan; (2)———Jordan. |
| Nancy, | " 1772, | " 1857, | Wash'n Co., Tenn. | " James Cassady. |
| Robert, | " 1774 (?), | " 1836, | Bladen Co., N. C. | " (1) Rachel Thomas; (2) Jennie Melvin. |
| Sarah, | " 1775 (?), | " 18—, | ———, La. (?) | " Edmund Hawes. |
| Edward P., | " 1777, | " 1841, | Clinton Co., Ky. | " (1) Mary Miller. (2) Susan Pierce. |
| Jane, | " 1779 (?), | " 18—, | ———, Ala. | " Edward Harris. |
| Evan, | " 1781 (?), | " 1824, | Bladen Co., N. C. | " Eliza Edwards. |
| Mary, | " 1783 (?), | " 18—, | " " | " (1) George Henry; (2) John Thomas. |
| James, | " 1785 (?), | " 18—, | Butler Co., Ala. | " ———Edwards. |
| Hannah, | " 1787, | " 1866, | Bladen Co., N. C. | Amos Cain. |
| Thompson, | " 1790 (?), | " infant | " " | ——— |
| Damaris, | " 1792, | " 1857, | " " | " Tolliver Sutton. |
| David M., | " 1795, | " 1880, | Lowndes Co., Ala. | " (1) Catharine Sellers. (2) Mary Herring. |

JANE MELVIN (REEVES), daughter of Daniel Melvin of Bladen County, North Carolina, was born about 1748. About 1767 she was married to Edward Reeves of the same county who was about 27 years her senior. Over a period of 26 years (1769-1795) she bore him 14 children. The dates of her birth and marriage have been calculated from her period of child-bearing.

Jane was the wife of a man who confided little in anyone; and her contribution to available family tradition concerning him consists of a few brief statements made after his death to her son-in-law, Tolliver Sutton. It was probably due to her influence that her husband joined the Presbyterian Church in middle life; she being of Scotch descent. During her long married life of about 59 years she was a loyal wife and a good mother.

After the death of her husband in 1826 she continued at her old home; during her last years as a member of the family of her son-in-law, Tolliver Sutton. She died there in 1836 at the age of about 88 years, and was buried beside her husband.

ANCESTRY OF EDWARD REEVES. As we have seen from the basic sketch of Edward Reeves (1721-1826), our first definite knowledge of him in Bladen County, North Carolina is of the year 1750 when he was 29 years of age. He was a reserved man who talked little about himself. Family tradition concerning his origin is meagre. Many Bladen County records of his period are missing.

First to be noted is the fact that of his three sons known to have received middle names, two received the same middle name; Jeremiah Prothero the eldest, and Edward Prothero whose name included his father's name; a strong indication that Prothero was an ancestral name. The name Evan was no doubt Scotch from the maternal side, as was David Melvin. William, Robert, James and Thompson could be English or Scotch. According to a statement by his wife to Tolliver Sutton after his death, as reported by Gaston P. Sutton in a letter of December, 1917, the maiden name of the mother of Edward Reeves was Mary Striker (spelling uncertain), and she was a small, strong woman.

The census of 1790 shows in North Carolina 16 heads of families with name spelled Reaves, 23 Reeves, 5 Reavis, 1 Reavs, 1 Reves, 1 Revis, 1 Reives, 6 Rieves, 7 Rives; and some Rees and Reese. We find in Bladen County Edward Reaves; in Cumberland next north Darling, George, Jesse, John D. and Nathaniel Reeves; in Duplin just north-east Adam, Hardy and (2) Hardy Reaves; in Brunswick just south Mark and Solomon Reaves. Further north and north-east we find in Craven County Courtney Rieves; in Dobbs (formerly about where Greene now is) William Reeves and Joseph Rieves; in Pitt Richard Reeves and Peter Rieves; in Wayne Jesse, John and William Rieves; in Wake Hannah, Hardy, Jonathan, William and William, Jr., Rives. Further away, from north-east to west we find in Chowan County Richard Reeves; in Northampton John Revis; in Warren Joel, Joshua and William Reeves; in Franklin William Reaves and Richard Reeves; in Granville Hardy, William, Frederick and Samuel Reaves, and Samuel Reves; in Orange Rev. George Reeves and John Rives; in Guilford Jesse, Jonathan, Thomas, (2) Thomas and William Reeves; in Montgomery Josias, William and Samuel Reaves; in Ire-dell Edmond Reaves and Henry Reavs; in Surry James, (2) James, Jesse, John and Joseph Reavis; in Wilkes Isaac, James and John Reeves; in Rutherford David and George Reeves and Isom Reives.

Prior to the granting in 1750 of the petition of Edward Reeves for land in Bladen County there had been granted in 1742 the petition of Robert Reeves for 300 acres, and in 1750 that of John Prothero for 150 acres, in Bladen County; and in 1739 those of William Reeves and Dr.

William Reeves for 400 acres, each, and that of William Reeves for 128 acres, in Edgecombe County north-east of Bladen County; and in 1744 that of James Reeves for 300 acres in Craven County. In 1739 William Reeves was designated a jurymen for Edgecombe and Bertie Counties. (Colonial Records of N. C., Vol. IV). In a later period, in addition to grants to Edward Reeves and sons, we find in Bladen County except as otherwise indicated, the following:

Jesse Reeves, 1768, 150 acres "on the Brown Marsh."

Nathaniel Reeves and Ben Butler, 1768, 100 acres "N. E. side of Cape Fear River."

Nathaniel Reeves, 1775, 300 acres "N. E. of Harrison's Creek Swamp and deemed near Sam'l. Carver Wilson's line."

William Reeves and Samuel Carman, 1775, 600 acres "on the Eastern side of Harrison's Creek Swamp"; calling for lines of Robert Edwards, Nathaniel Reeves and Sam Carver Wilson.

William Reeves and John McDaniel, 1775, 600 acres "on the eastern side of Harrison's Creek Swamp"; calling for lines of R. Edwards, Jr., Sam'l. Carver Wilson and Nathaniel Reeves.

John Reeves, 1797, 50 acres; last call for "said Reeves' line"; *Orange County*.

Mark Reaves, 1810, 50 acres; *Cumberland County*.

In 1771 Isaac Reeves, John Thomas and others of Orange County, joined in a petition to divide the county (Colonial Records of N. C., Vol. IV).

Of record in Bladen County is a deed of May, 1801 from Edward Reaves to John Smith for 100 acres of land on the south side of Cypress creek, reciting a right to convey "by virtue of a deed from John Reaves to grant, bargain sell convey and confirm the sd. premises"; and likewise a deed of February 11, 1815 from Edward Reaves, Sr., Planter, to Griffith John White for 150 acres on the north-east side of North West Branch, recited to have been taken from a tract of 350 acres conveyed to John Reaves; "which by kinship at the death of the said John Reaves became the property of him the said Edward Reaves, Sr."

In December, 1897 George W. Reeves of Jefferson, Ashe County, North Carolina, then almost 86 years of age, wrote:

"My grandfather's name was George Reeves whose birth-place I am unable to give, but was principally raised in eastern North Carolina. He was born about the year 1704 or 1705 and

came from Neuse River, N. C., to New River, Grayson County, Virginia, about the year 1725 bringing his wife with him. They had born to them seven daughters and four sons, the youngest of which was John Reeves who was my father. When my grandfather came to Virginia no others of the Reeves family came with him, but my recollection is that he left others of the Reeves family in eastern N. C. whose names I am unable to give. But well remember my father had two cousins, William Reeves and Jeremiah Reeves, who visited my father since my recollection. I also remember that my grandfather's family frequently visited their relatives in eastern N. C., and I am sure that my grandfather left brothers and sisters in that part of the state. * * * My grandmother's maiden name was Jane Burton. She was first cousin of Hutchins G. Burton who was I believe the third governor of North Carolina."

In January, 1898 Albert B. Reeves of Bladen County wrote that he had heard his father, Wiley Reeves, speak of his (Wiley's) father, William, having gone on horseback to visit his brother Edward in Tennessee. In the same month Isaac J. Cain of the same county, son of Hannah (Reeves) Cain, wrote: "My mother said that Edward Reeves was born in the fork of the Brandywine, Wales. * * * He had no brothers that came with him that I ever heard her speak of. She said that (he) had royal blood in his veins. My mother boasted of her royal blood." In the same month Gaston P. Sutton wrote: "I think he came from Tar River in the extreme eastern part of the state and was a native tar-heel of Welsh descent."

In February following Sutton wrote that he had recently visited Isaac J. Cain (and discussed with him the Welsh ancestry tradition); and that he then remembered that his father, Tolliver Sutton, told him that when he asked the widow of Edward Reeves whence he came she replied, "Brandywine"; that it was his (Tolliver's) understanding that the Reeves were of Welsh descent; and that Edward Reeves had a brother John who died young, unmarried; that he (Gaston) once heard his father ask a very old Negro where he first saw Edward Reeves, and that the Negro replied, "In the Rich Lands of Tar River"; and that he had recently visited a very old woman, a relative of the Melvins, who stated that as a child of 12 years she had visited at the home of Edward Reeves (See Edward Reeves); she adding to other statements the remark that he came across the water to America. This statement of his father as to the brother John, Sutton

still remembered in April, 1943 when the deed of 1815, above, was brought to his attention.

In December, 1917 James T. Reeves of Caldwell, Texas (*b.* 1836), grandson of Robert and son of Edward Reeves, who left Bladen County with his parents in 1854, wrote that he was familiar with the tradition of Welsh ancestry, but thought that Edward Reeves (his great-grandfather) "was a full blooded Englishman," born in England, who lived near Wales and afterward came to America. In the conversation of March, 1908 (See Edward P. Reeves) Rev. Robert T. Reeves of Whitewright, Texas, son of Edward P. Reeves, gave as a family tradition that Edward Reeves, because he was a Protestant, came to Cape Fear River twelve miles from Wilmington.

About 1650 immigration began from Barbados, Bermuda and Virginia into the Albemarle and Neuse River sections of North Carolina, and also into South Carolina. About 1660 there was an unsuccessful attempt by adventurers from New England to settle on the Cape Fear River; and about 1665 there was a similarly unsuccessful attempt from Barbados to establish a colony near what is now Wilmington. But soon after the turn of the century permanent settlers from the Albemarle and the Neuse, and from South Carolina, began to move into the low lands of Cape Fear River (Migrations Within the Empire—Belcher, Vol. XII, p. 26; Historic Towns of the Southern States—Powell, pp. 221-231).

After the failure of Monmouth's rebellion in 1685 many participants were condemned to be transported to the West Indies (Short Story of England—Cheyney, p. 449). At least one Reeves seems to have been involved in Monmouth's defeat, as his name appears in a list of prisoners shipped into Barbados in 1685. It is incidentally noted that in 1679 one Edward Reeves was buried at St. Michael Church, and in 1680 one Thomas Reeves was listed on the parish register of St. James Church; both in Barbados (Lists of Emigrants to America, 1600-1700—Hotten, pp. 319, 323, 434, 505). After the defeat of the Young Pretender in 1745 there was a considerable settlement of former Jacobites on the Cape Fear River, that spread into Bladen and surrounding counties (*Belcher*, above, Vol. XII, p. 75; Colonial Records of N. C., Vol. V, p. 1195, quoting Foote's Sketches of N. C.).

Edward Reeves was not a political enthusiast. He did not become a church member until middle life, and then no doubt through the influence of his wife. In a community where practically all of his generation were immigrants the question of origin would ordinarily be little discussed; but living among others of that class, had he been a Jacobite the fact could

hardly have escaped notice; and if he had brothers in the province the probability of such status is further reduced. Furthermore the Jacobite refugees were almost or altogether Scotch Highlanders, and Edward was not Scotch. In short, the picture presented is not that of a follower of the Young Pretender.

There is no Brandywine river in Wales. The fork of the Brandywine is in Chester County in south-eastern Pennsylvania, but no trace of Edward Reeves has been found there. There was no settlement of Welsh in that section; but there was such a settlement further east, to the west of Philadelphia, still evidenced by Welsh town names, Merion, Narbeth, Radner, etc. There about 300 families besides single persons settled about 1682-1700; among the records of which occur quite frequently the names Bevan, Evan, Edwards, Griffith, Rees and Reese; and several times Edward and Evan Rees and Reese (Welsh Founders of Pa.—Glenn, Vol. I, pp. 15, 38, 75; Pa. Archives, Series 3, Vol. I, pp. 3 *et seq.*). In 1736 a body of these moved southward into the Carolinas (*Belcher*, above). It is worthy of note that some of these names appear among those of the neighbors of Edward Reeves, and even among those of the husbands and wives of his children; and this plus the vague tradition of Welsh ancestry suggests the question whether Edward's surname, Reeves, could have been originally Rees or Reese, thus indicating his ancestry.

Different from Rees—Reese (Rhys, Welsh) the name Reeve—Reeves is of English origin; reeve, a bailiff or steward, later a county dignitary—related to sheriff (shire-reeve). Even in America changes from one to the other form of the name by adding or dropping the final "s" are not unknown. The name is old and well known in England, as can be seen by reference to any standard work on heraldry (e. g., Fairbairn's Book of Crests). One writer states that the name is confined to the southern half of England, and lists 16 counties where one or the other of the two forms of the name run from 7 to 31 per 10,000 of population, Reeves being preponderant (Homes of Family Names—Guppy, London, 1890). The less common form, Reaves, is a variant of Reeves.

The Rives family of the United States claims descent from the Ryves family of County Dorset, south-western England, dating back to Robert Reve or Ryve or Ryves of that county born about 1490 (Reliques of the Rives—Childs). It is claimed that William Reeves of the 1739 Edgecombe County grants, above, was the son of John Ryves of this family, Lt. John Durdon Reeves of Halifax, North Carolina, born about 1759, being his descendant (American Families with British Ancestry—Burke). Some similar names that include the letter "i" may be variants of that

name; but in view of the well known carelessness of many early settlers and scribes in the spelling of personal names it is difficult to place some of these last names. While in some early records the surname of Edward Reeves is spelled Reaves this is attributed to carelessness, or to errors by census takers, or in copying for record, or recopying records after fires. There is no doubt of the proper spelling of the name; and there is no indication that it was previously Rees or Reese, or that Edward Reeves was of the Pennsylvania Welsh stock, above.

The Reeves were not late arrivals in America. As early as the 1630's there were arrivals of the name in Connecticut and Virginia. By the end of the century they were to be found as well in Long Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland. They were slower in the Carolinas; but there, besides some original immigration, an influx of settlers from Virginia and further north began in the 1730's. Considerable investigation of the northern Reeves families has been made by various persons, but these disclose no trace of Edward Reeves. There has been less investigation of the southern families.

Neither Robert Reeves of the grant of 1742 or John Prothero of the grant of 1750 in Bladen County, nor William or Dr. William Reeves (probably the same) of the 1739 Edgecombe grants, nor James Reeves of the 1744 Craven grant appear in the 1790 census of those counties. They probably form an age group that arrived in the Tar-Neuse river section about the same time, and were dead. Jesse and Nathaniel Reeves of the 1768 and 1775 Bladen grants are apparently those who appear with Darling, George and John D. in the Cumberland census. William Reeves of the 1775 Bladen grants is probably he of the Dobbs census, though he might be William Reeves of the Warren census or he of the Guilford census, or perhaps William Reaves of the Franklin or Granville or Montgomery census. Jesse, Nathaniel and William Reeves, last above, were probably of the Edward Reeves generation. Mark Reaves of the 1810 Cumberland grant is probably he who appears with Solomon in the Brunswick census, and possibly he who later held land in Washington County, Tennessee, these being younger.

John Reaves of the Orange County grant of 1797 may be he of the Bladen deeds of 1801 and 1815, as the latter seems to have been alive in 1801 and dead by 1815 and the recital of the first deed suggests that he was far away. He may be John Reeves of the census of Wilkes in the north-western part of the state or John Rieves of the census of Wayne close by. John D. Reeves of the Cumberland County census may be Lt. John Durdon Reeves of Halifax (*Burke*, above). The census shows John

Revis in Northampton County next to Halifax, both just above Edgecombe, on the Virginia line; and the will of Edward Reavis, listing wife Sarah, son Jesse, and daughters, was probated in Northampton County in 1733 (Abstract of N. C. Wills—Bryan). Isaac Reeves of the 1771 Orange County petition was probably he of the Wilkes census. He may have migrated further west with John, above. That a son of Edward P. Reeves was named Hardy is interesting in view of the census showing of Hardy Reaves twice in Duplin County and once in Granville, and Hardy Rives in Wake. George, William and Mark Reeves who in 1784, 1786 and 1827, respectively, acquired lands in Washington County, Tennessee, and who subsequently went further west, are of no known connection with Edward Reeves.

In 1815 Edward P. Reeves, then of Washington County, Tennessee, married his second wife and removed to Carter County adjoining, just across the state line from Grayson County, Virginia. About the fall of 1820 he removed with his wife and three small children to Kentucky where he made his final home. It is reasonable to assume that before his departure for Kentucky his brothers Jeremiah and William made him a visit in Carter County, stopping en route to visit relatives in Grayson County. The circumstances easily explain the absence of tradition as to this visit among either the Tennessee or Kentucky descendants of Edward P. Reeves. Tar River flows through Edgecombe and Pitt counties in eastern North Carolina, and Neuse River flows through (then) Dobbs and Craven counties next below. It should be noted that George W. Reeves referred to Jeremiah and William as cousins, not as first cousins of his father.

New Bern whence the early grants were issued was in Craven County at the mouth of the Neuse River. The flow of migration indicated above, the location and number of the early grants, the location and number of the later grants and the census showing of that period, the unusual names involved, and the supporting family tradition, strongly suggest a group of common origin or common interest, and lead to the following conclusions:

There was an original settlement in the Tar-Neuse River section of a group including Robert, James and William Reeves, probably brothers (though William may have been of the next group), and John Prothero, probably a cousin. These were from England, directly or by way of Barbados or Virginia. George, Jesse, Nathaniel, Isaac, Edward, William, John and one Hardy formed a second, younger group, probably cousins and sons, some of whom followed their elders, some of whom were born in North Carolina. Still younger were Darling, George (the younger), John D. and others.

Of the first group James ultimately settled in Craven County; William in Edgecombe. Robert, and John Prothero, went to Bladen where they were followed by Edward, and by Jesse and Nathaniel who settled in Cumberland, William who settled in Dobbs, John of uncertain final location, and the elder Hardy who stopped in Duplin. Isaac went first to Orange. George continued to Grayson County, Virginia. Edward and John were brothers. George of Virginia and Edward may have been brothers, but the disparity of their ages indicates that they were more likely cousins. If they were brothers then probably other brothers from the second group above came between. At his death John was no doubt Edward's last surviving brother; and Edward apparently considered himself and was accepted as John's heir.

For many years I have inclined to the theory that Edward Reeves of our sketch was a scion of a family of New Jersey or further east, who had sojourned for a time in the fork of the Brandywine and then moved south. To follow this theory it was necessary to discard the traditions of religious interference and ocean crossing; and even then the setting did not fit. Why no trace of Edward Reeves in Chester County, Pennsylvania or in any of the eastern families? Why was Edward taciturn about his antecedents? And the story of the small, strong mother did not savor of England. But with the conclusion finally reached it would seem that the parts drop into place and the picture is complete. In dealing with a series of traditions running over two hundred years we have, in large part, been dealing not with Edward but with his father.

There was great dissatisfaction among the Protestants of England with James II, the Catholic king. The Duke of Monmouth took advantage of this to make a bid for the throne. On June 11, 1685 he landed at Lyme Regis, Dorset, in south-western England, and called the discontented to his banner, appealing particularly to the Protestants. He shortly raised a force of about 5000 men, among them, we suspect, some young men named Reeves and Prothero. But Monmouth's troops were untrained; and at the battle of Sedgemoor on July 6, same year, he was defeated and captured, and was shortly thereafter executed. Of his followers many were taken prisoner, about 300 were hanged and about 850 were condemned to servitude in the West Indies (*Cheyney*, above).

While Lyme Regis is in south-western Dorset, the county of the Ryves, this insurrection is not mentioned in *Reliques of the Rives*, above. Except for its coast line Dorset is encircled by counties strong in Reeves population—Devon 7, Somerset 11, Wiltshire 31 and Hampshire 12 per 10,000; and the Prothero name is noted only in Monmouthshire 10, Here-

fordshire 12 and South Wales 10 per 10,000 (*Guppy*, above); Monmouthshire and Herefordshire being in order directly north of Somerset on the Welsh border. It was less than a month from Monmouth's landing until his defeat. It follows that most of his force was drawn from nearby counties.

Included in a bunch of "Convicted Rebels" turned over on September 20, 1685 pursuant to "the Warrant from ye Lord Chief Justice, * * * to be transported to some of His Majesties Plantations in America" was one John Reeves who had been in confinement at Wells in Somerset, just north of Lyme Regis. These were shipped from Weymouth in Dorset, by the ship *Betty*, and duly reached Barbados where Reeves was turned over to John Smart as master (*Hotten*, above). Whether this Reeves was one of our group of young men we know not, as no further record of him has been found. The others, if such there were in Monmouth's army, apparently escaped the wrath of King James and the relentless Judge Jeffreys and ultimately reached North Carolina. There one of them, probably Robert, met and married Mary Striker, a hardy pioneer woman no doubt herself English; whence Edward and John, perhaps George, and probably others.

The father was dead before the American revolution. Perhaps it was not safe in his lifetime to disclose his history. Perhaps Edward never knew the full story, in which case he could not tell it. The tradition of Brandywine origin and Welsh descent may have grown from early Welsh associations or from confusion of the names Reese and Reeves. Somerset is just across the Bristol Channel from Monmouthshire and South Wales. It is not improbable that some Reeves family, though English, had a seat in Wales.

Whether there is in any Reeves family of England a tradition of "royal blood" is not known. I think that Edward Reeves was an American pioneer of English blood—an Anglo-Saxon.

DANIEL MELVIN, father of Jane Melvin (Reeves), was born in Scotland near the Isle of Skye, about the year 1708. As the story goes he shipped at the age of ten as a cabin-boy on a ship bound for America. The ship was captured off the Carolina coast by the famous pirate Blackbeard (Edward Teach), and Melvin and others were taken prisoner. Shortly thereafter, in the nighttime, Melvin, one Tom Bones and a third man removed their clothes, went overboard with an empty water-cask, and started for land. The third man was drowned, but Melvin and Bones reached the shore on the coast of South Carolina and hid in the bushes near a road. In the morning a stranger came along the road. Bones who was a Freemason showed himself, gave a signal of distress and was recognized. The stranger took them to his home and kept them for several days. When they left he gave Bones two suits of clothes and two guineas in money because he was a Mason; and he gave Melvin one suit of clothes and one guinea because he was in the company of a Mason. This story was related in January, 1898 by Isaac J. Cain, great-grandson of Melvin. Not only is it definite, but it is chronologically correct. Blackbeard's career as a pirate began in 1716. He was killed and his ship was captured off the coast of North Carolina, November 22, 1718.

Melvin married about 1736 and settled as a farmer in Bladen County, North Carolina. At one time during his married life he removed with his family to the mountains of North Carolina, but he found the climate there too severe and soon returned to Bladen County. His final home was in the north-east corner of Bladen County as now bounded, near Peters' creek and Peters' Creek Baptist Church, about one-fourth mile west from the present Wilmington-Fayetteville highway. There he built and occupied a log house which has long since disappeared.

On September 27, 1751 his petition for a warrant for 100 acres of land was granted by the Governor and Council at New Bern, fourteen months after the granting of a similar petition of Edward Reeves (Colonial Records of N. C., Vol. IV, pp. 1043, 1247); and it was apparently on this that his last home was built. The census of 1790 shows both Melvin and Reeves living in Bladen County, but in that record the name of the first is erroneously spelled or copied Meloins.

Daniel Melvin was tall, rawboned and ruddy. He was witty and enjoyed a joke, characteristics that have marked his Reeves descendants down to the present. His family was well known and locally influential. As stated by Mr. Cain, his grandson Robert was at one time chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, and his grandson George was sheriff; both being sons of Daniel Melvin the younger.

Daniel Melvin died about 1794 and was buried on his own land near his home.

The name Melvin is a variant of Melville. An interesting account of the names and the Melville family can be found in an article, The Surnames of Scotland, their Origin, Meaning and History—George F. Black, Ph.D., Part XXVII, published in Bulletin of the New York Public Library, Vol. 50, No. 1, January, 1946, pp. 63, 64.

The names of the children and their husbands and wives are listed as stated by Gaston P. Sutton and (in part) by Isaac J. Cain. Their order is not definitely known. The arrangement next following has been based on probabilities and what is known of Jane Melvin Reeves and the marriage of her son Jeremiah. The list is as follows:

| | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------|------------|-----------------------|
| Daniel, | b. 1737 (?), | d. —, | Bladen Co. | m. Sarah West. |
| Susannah, | " 1739 (?), | " —, | " " | " Christopher Sutton. |
| George, | " 1742 (?), | " —, | " " | " Mary Russ. |
| Morning, | " 1744 (?), | " —, | " " | " (1) Alfonso Rice; |
| | | | " " | " (2) Windsor Fort. |
| John, | " 1746 (?), | " —, | " " | |
| Jane, | " 1748 (?), | " 1836, | " " | " Edward Reeves. |
| Nancy, | " 1750 (?), | " —, | " " | " Eleazer Russ. |

JANE THOMAS (MELVIN) was born about 1716 in Bladen County, North Carolina, or in near-by South Carolina. About 1736 she was married to Daniel Melvin, and resided with him in Bladen County. The name of her father is not known; but the Thomas family, apparently English, was represented in both places. We know little of her except that she seems to have been a good wife and mother. The date of her death is not known, but she seems to have survived her husband. She was presumably buried beside him.

The place of burial was shown by Tolliver Sutton to Gaston P. Sutton many years ago, but even then the stones had disappeared. It was hoped that notwithstanding his age Sutton might be able to visit the spot and locate the graves; but Fate has decreed otherwise.

THE SUTTONS. Tolliver Sutton of Bladen County (1815-1894), then in his twentieth year, married in 1834 Damaris, youngest daughter of Edward Reeves, first-cousin of both his father Christopher M. Sutton and his mother, in that his grandfathers, Christopher Sutton and Alfonso Rice, married respectively Susannah and Morning Melvin, sisters of Jane Melvin Reeves. Damaris died in 1857 without issue. In 1858 Sutton married Maria Peterson; and to this marriage was born on February 3, 1860, Gaston P. Sutton.

Notwithstanding the disparity of ages the marriage of Tolliver Sutton and Damaris Reeves was a happy one. Sutton never forgot his wife Damaris. He venerated her family. This veneration he taught to his son Gaston, passing to him what he knew of the history of the Reeves family. This Gaston treasured through the years, adding to it what he could learn from time to time of the Reeves descendants. From December, 1897 when I first contacted him, down to his death, his interest in this history never slackened. He was my guide in 1941 when I visited the home and grave of Edward Reeves. He was willing and helpful when I again visited Bladen County in May, 1947. To him more than any other person are we indebted for the details of the history of the Reeves and Melvin families in Bladen County.

A bachelor and retired farmer, Mr. Sutton's last years were spent near Elizabethtown in Bladen County. He died January 26, 1949 and was buried in the Edward Reeves private cemetery.

SECTION III.

Ancestry of Mary C. and Matilda De Vault

Valentine De Vault and wife Susan Range; Peter Range and wife Elizabeth Ronimus (Hieronymus); Noah Range (Ranger—Reanger) and wife Elizabeth Coons (Kones—Coens); Nicholas Kones (Coens) and wife Catharine.

Henry De Vault (Dewalt—Dewald) and wife Catharine M. Greaver;
Ancestry of Henry De Vault (Dewalt—Dewald).

VALENTINE DE VAULT, father of Mary De Vault (Reeves) and Matilda De Vault (Reeves), was born in 1776 near McAllestertown (later Hanover), York County, Pennsylvania. His youth was spent in York County. About the year 1800 Valentine and his brother Frederick went to Washington County, Tennessee where they settled on a plantation of 637 acres lying on both sides of the "Wataugah" river at what was thereafter known as De Vault's ford; which plantation had been purchased by their father, Henry De Vault, from John "Been" (Bean), to whom it had been granted by the State of North Carolina in 1784 at the price of fifty shillings per hundred acres (Quoted words as in the grant). Title ultimately passed to the brothers under the will of their father probated in York County in 1817. There the brothers who married sisters, Valentine about 1802, Frederick in 1803, constructed a wooden house that became their common home. This house stood on a knoll near the north entrance to the ford. Nearby they constructed a large barn with stone basement, the largest in that part of the state. In 1825 they added to the plantation 385 acres lying to the north on what is now the Washington-Sullivan County line, purchased from Henry Massengill; and in 1829 they were granted by the State of Tennessee an additional 60 acres on the Washington County side that included part of the "Big Island" in the Watauga River.

The brothers had in the meantime purchased in 1819 from Thomas Brabson another tract of 427 acres lying in the western part of Washington County, including the then recently laid out town of Leesburg; and thither Frederick removed about that time. In 1831 the brothers divided their holdings; Valentine taking the Watauga River plantation which continued to be his home during the remainder of his life; and Frederick taking the Leesburg plantation which was likewise his home during the re-

mainder of his life, where he and his wife lie buried, and where his house and outbuildings still stand.

Just north of the old dwelling house on his own plantation Valentine began about 1841 the construction of a commodious brick residence which he occupied in 1842 but which was not entirely completed until after his death in that year. The old dwelling house was removed, but a covered porch with handsome pillars was transported therefrom to and built into the southerly side of the new residence, where it still stands. Earlier there had been constructed near the site of the dwellings a springhouse, and a smokehouse built of logs taken from the old Bean house. Both still stand, the logs of the smokehouse showing the mortises of the original construction. The barn has been removed in recent years.

Valentine De Vault (nicknamed "Felty") was above medium height, with brown hair and blue eyes, clean shaven, and rather portly in middle life. He spoke and read German as well as English, and took a German language newspaper. In politics he was a Democrat. He was a member of the Lutheran Church. His Bible, printed in German in 1798, is now in the possession of his great-grandson William Weldon De Vault (Second). He acquired other lands besides those mentioned above, and was probably the largest farmer and slave owner of his time in Washington County. His home was one of affluence and hospitality. An old gentleman, Dr. Link, still living in the west when this note was made about 1897, wrote interestingly of well-remembered entertainments given at the De Vault home when he was a boy; and of some very fine pears with which Mr. De Vault on one occasion loaded his arms, and then stood shaking with laughter at the boy's efforts to carry them all away.

Reverend James Miller, D. D., born in Maine, son-in-law of Valentine De Vault, was a pioneer minister of the Christian Church at Johnson City. His last home was a frame building that lately stood on the southerly side of East Market Street just west of what is now a private alley and in the rear of what was formerly known as the Eagle Building. On one occasion, riding on horseback on the old Knob creek road, he came to a place now in the western part of Johnson City where the road crossed a branch. There a teamster had stopped to water his horses. The Reverend Miller attempted to cross below the team, but his horse wanted to stop. It was urged forward by repeated cluckings at which the team started also. "Whoa!" cried the teamster. Miller's horse stopped but was started by more cluckings, at which the team again started. "Whoa!" again cried the teamster; then to Miller: "You come back here and I'll give you a thresh-

ing!" "'Taint my notion," solemnly replied Miller. "Cluck, cluck, cluck," and he was on his way.

The plantation bottom land was lush and produced fine melons. Down the river from the ford was the fish-trap from which sometimes during a freshet would be gathered a wagon load of fish. On such occasions the fish-trap was usually watched through the night by Manuel, a slave with big mouth and strong teeth, whose duty it was to seize and throw out on the bank the fish that came into the trap. When an eel came in, lest it wriggle away, before throwing it out Manuel would crush its head with his strong teeth. One morning there was found in the catch of the previous night a water-moccasin that Manuel had in the darkness taken for an eel and had dispatched accordingly.

Among the slaves was also Becky, who is said to have been purchased originally by Peter Range, father of Mrs. Valentine De Vault. As the story goes, a slave-driver was passing the Range place with a bunch of Negroes when Becky, then a young woman, broke away, ran to Mr. Range, knelt, and begged him to buy her, which he did. Becky had blue eyes, unusual for a Negro. She boasted that she was a "Guinea nigger," and would have little to do with the other Negroes on the plantation, she usually working about the kitchen. After the slaves were freed she would visit about among the homes of the children of Mr. and Mrs. De Vault. It is said that at such times she would install herself in the kitchen and shut everyone else out, which caused no complaint as her crotchety ways were understood and she was an excellent cook. She had a husband in her youth, and a child that was killed by a bull.

She visited my father's home when I was a boy. She was then wizened and quite old. Arc lights on poles had just been installed in Johnson City. As daylight faded "Aunt" Becky stood with me in the door and watched the lights flash on. "Tell me," she said, "How does they get up there to light 'em?" I tried to explain how the wires carried the electricity. She listened attentively until I had finished, and then said: "I jus' don't understand how they light 'em." On this occasion she told with satisfaction how her master had taken his gun and killed the bull that had gored her child. Her age was not known by the then older generation, but she was thought to be over a hundred when she died. She was buried at the old home where she had lived so long, in a plot set aside for the Negro retainers, adjoining the De Vault cemetery.

Valentine De Vault died at his home on August 10, 1842, two days before the death of his wife. He left no will. On September 13 following,

his children, the husbands of his daughters, and his brother Frederick as guardian of Valentine, Jr. not yet of age, entered into an agreement for division of the estate including lands, slaves, funds and other personalty. Some of the children having already received advancements; under the agreement and subsequent adjustments James Miller and wife, and John, held the respective tracts in Washington County and Sullivan County on which they were then living, Isaac took the Massengill tract on which he subsequently erected his home, Jacob the Big Island, and the acreage west of the river on which he erected his home, and Valentine, Jr. the remainder including the previously erected buildings. The old residence is now the home of the widow and some of the children of William Weldon, son of Valentine De Vault, Jr.

No actual signature of Valentine De Vault has been found. In the record copy of the grant of 1829 the surname is spelled "Devalt"; in the deed of 1825, "Devault"; in the conveyances of 1819 and 1831 and the agreement of 1842, "Davault"; in a quitclaim deed of 1841 to Valentine, "Devalt"; and in a Washington County deed of 1817 to Jacob, a deed of 1828 from Jacob to Valentine, and a Sullivan County deed of 1820 from Henry to Gabriel (all brothers), "Devalt." The deed of 1820 was witnessed by Daniel Devalt son of Henry, and Samuel Devalt son of Gabriel. The surnames on the tombstones of Valentine and wife were already illegible when the stone of Valentine crumbled in the winter of 1946, but the stones of his children show the name "De Vault." In the record copy of the will of Frederick and on his tombstone the name is "Davault," but on the stones of his wife, his son John (1819-1897), and Frederick R. (1855-1945) son of John, it is "De Vault."

In the census of 1830, we find in Sullivan County, Gabriel Devault; and in Washington County, Valentine Davault, Frederick Devault and Jacob Dewalt (last arrival); all brothers. In the census of 1850, of the sons of Valentine the surnames of Isaac, Jacob and Valentine, Jr. (then one family) are spelled "Davault," and that of John (Sullivan County), "Dauvalt"; and those of his brothers, Gabriel "Davault" and Jacob "Davalt (Sullivan County). Carelessness by both principals and census takers in the spelling of the surname is indicated. In two instances among the families of the last, the surnames of husband and wife, reported together, are spelled differently. The origin and variations of the surname will be discussed under Ancestry of Henry De Vault, to follow.

Valentine De Vault was buried on the plantation, near his residence, in what was thereafter the family cemetery. There lie his wife, all his

children (except Mary and Matilda) and their wives and husbands; and others listed below.

The children:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Elizabeth, | b. 1805, d. 1877. m. Rev. James Miller, D. D. (1798-1874). |
| Mary Catharine, | " 1808, " 1894. " William P. Reeves (1803-1885). |
| John, | " 1809, " 1851. " Elizabeth Kitzmiller (1810-1890). |
| Isaac, | " 1811, " 1903. " Elizabeth Hannah (1827-1870). |
| Matilda, | " 1814, " 1896. " Peter M. Reeves (1807-1891). |
| Jacob, | " 1817, " 1878. " Elizabeth Clark (1826-1879). |
| Valentine, | " 1822, " 1906. " Edna Hannah (1830-1918). |

In the De Vault cemetery are also buried: Elizabeth Stover Hannah (1808-1904) mother, and Nancy Hannah Stuart (1841-1891) sister of Elizabeth and Edna Hannah De Vault; Osborne S. (1830-1845), James V., and a third son of Rev. James Miller; Rufus I. (1868-1892) son of Isaac De Vault; William V. (1846-1916) son of Jacob De Vault, and first wife Elizabeth McAfee (1858-1880); John C. (1858-1863) and William Weldon (1865-1910) sons of Valentine De Vault, Jr.; Adelaide (1832-1833) daughter of William P. Reeves; Willie R. (1887-1888) son of William V. De Vault and second wife Barbara Higginbotham; Bynum (1879-1904) son of Valentine De Vault, 3d. (of John); and, supposedly, William C. (1837) infant son of Peter M. Reeves.

SUSAN RANGE (DE VAULT) was born in 1779 at the home of her father, Peter Range, in Washington County, Tennessee. She was an elder sister of Margaret who married Frederick De Vault. Little is known of her childhood except what may be assumed from the standing of her father. About 1802 she was married at her father's home to Valentine De Vault, and was thereafter his loyal helpmeet. She died at her home on August 12, 1842, two days after the death of her husband, both being victims of typhoid fever. She was buried beside her husband.

PETER RANGE, father of Susan Range (De Vault), was born March 26, 1749 in Somerset County, New Jersey, and came in his youth as a member of his father's family to York County, Pennsylvania. He seems to have resided for a time in Berkeley County, Virginia (now West Va.) where he married and where probably his first known child was born. He subsequently came with his family down the Valley of Virginia and to what is now Washington County, Tennessee, where the remainder of his life was spent. He is supposed to have arrived by 1779 as his brother James was at that time in what is now Carter County. Our first definite knowledge of him in Washington County begins with his acquirement there of land, of which there were seven tracts, grouped for convenience as follows:

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|------|-----------------|-----|-------|----|----------------|
| a. | Feb. 12, 1790, | from | Pharoh Cobb, | 300 | acres | on | Knob Creek; |
| | Nov. 2, 1804, | " | John Engle, | 150 | " | " | " |
| b. | Aug. 21, 1797, | " | Solomon Hedrix, | 50 | " | " | Boone's Creek; |
| | " " " | " | " " | 3½ | " | " | " " |
| c. | Feb. 14, 1791, | " | Abraham Cox, | 250 | " | " | Sinking Creek. |
| d. | Nov. 3, 1804. | " | John Hammer, | 4 | " | " | Knob Creek; |
| | May 2, 1808, | " | Samuel Denton, | 250 | " | " | " " |

Of group "a" which lay on lower Knob creek, the larger piece was the first known Range home. There Peter Range erected a two-story log house which was occupied until after his purchase in 1804 and 1808 of the two tracts, group "d," after which both tracts of group "a" were sold. Susan Range was married in this house. It was removed about forty years ago, but a small picture of it taken by William Weldon De Vault is preserved by his children.

On the property group "d," further up Knob creek, Peter Range built a grist-mill, and a short distance below it on the creek a large two-story and basement stone house which was his final home. The plantation passed under his will to his son Jacob. The house still stands, but the mill which was operated until a few years ago has been replaced by a meat-packing plant. The general site is now in the extreme north-north-east suburb of Johnson City.

On the Boone's creek property marked "b," at what is now Flourville, Peter Range and his son-in-law Garner built a grist-mill, subsequently known as the McAfee mill, which still stands. This property passed by conveyances of 1800 and 1810 to John McAfee; and about the last date Garner removed with his family to Mississippi. The Sinking creek property marked "c" may have passed to Peter's son Peter, who purchased in 1821 from Thomas Whitson a second tract of about 275 acres on Sinking

creek; as in later years James and William Range, sons of Peter, Jr., resided on farms in that neighborhood.

Peter Range was a large, light-haired man. He was a prosperous farmer and mill operator, and a substantial citizen. He died at his home October 10, 1817 and was buried on his plantation in what was thereafter the family cemetery. His will, executed in August, 1817, was agreed to in writing on December 2 by his wife and all the children except Louisa (in Mississippi); the signatures of Barbara, Sarah and Rachel showing that they were then unmarried. It was probated in January, 1818.

I visited the cemetery in 1913. It was in a meadow, on a knoll above a ledge of rocks, about 150 yards south-east from the house, inclosed by a dilapidated fence, and considerably grown up in saplings and thorn-bushes. The older part of the cemetery consisted of three rows of graves, twenty-five in all, mostly marked by unlettered limestone headstones. The grave of Peter Range was fourth from the south in the second row; that of his wife to his left. In the third or easterly row, in order, beginning at the south, were the marble tombstones of Louisa G. Range (1823-1884), Jacob Range (1790-1876) and Susan Range (1795-1870), parents and daughter; and beyond them three graves understood to be those of triplet children of Jacob and Susan Range.

I visited the place again in 1947. The cemetery fence was gone, the cemetery grown up and trampled by cattle, the marble tombstones broken in pieces and scattered. There among the forgotten graves of his contemporaries and the fragments of the monuments of his descendants the small, dark headstone of Peter Range still stood bravely, as it had stood for more than a hundred years; where one might kneel and with difficulty decipher the crude lettering:

P. Range
Oct. 10, 1817
In memory.

Of the children, listed next below, the dates of birth given as to five are known; the date of birth of Peter having been calculated from the census of 1850. As indicated, the dates of birth of the remaining five are approximated.

The children:

| | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Elizabeth, | b. 1777, | d. 1843. m. Jacob Miller. |
| Susan, | " 1779, | " 1842. " Valentine De Vault. |
| John, | " 1781 (?), | " —. " Abigail Garner. |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|----------|---|---|-------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Louisa, | " | 1783 (?) | , | " | ——. | " | ——— | Garner (To Miss.). |
| Margaret, | " | 1785, | | " | 1865. | " | Frederick De Vault. | |
| Barbara, | " | 1787, | | " | 1847. | " | John Wright. | |
| Jacob, | " | 1790, | | " | 1876. | " | Susan Hale. | |
| Peter, | " | 1793, | | " | 1859. | " | Matilda Hale. | |
| Isaac, | " | 1795 (?) | , | " | ——. | " | Elizabeth Humphreys. | |
| Sarah, | " | 1797 (?) | , | " | ——. | " | Henry Worley. | |
| Rachel, | " | 1799 (?) | , | " | ——. | " | John Worley (To Savannah, Ga.). | |

The husband of Louisa, last above, may have been Brise M. Garner who witnessed the John Engle deed of 1804, above.

ELIZABETH RONIMUS (RANGE) was born about 1755 and was, at least on the paternal side, of German parentage. She was married to Peter Range about 1775, apparently in Berkeley County, Virginia (now West Va.), as Peter seems to have resided there at that time; and went with him to Washington County, Tennessee, probably after the birth of their first child. While tradition gives the name as Ronimus it was no doubt originally Hieronymus. The name Ronimus has not been found in the lists of German immigrants who landed at Philadelphia; but Pieter Hieronimus (so listed) arrived in 1756 on the ship Harle; and Johannes Balthus Hieronymus and Johannes Frantz Hieronymus arrived in 1747 on the ship Two Brothers (Pa. Archives, Series 2, Vol. 17). Mrs. Emma Rankin King, granddaughter of Jacob Range, stated many years ago that the maiden name of the mother of Elizabeth was Townsend, which indicates an English family.

According to Mrs. Mary C. De Vault, second wife and widow of John son of Frederick, Elizabeth read German, and was of fine mind and industrious. Mrs. Samuel H. Miller, daughter of Jacob Range, stated that for several years before her death Elizabeth was lame from white swelling and walked with a cane. She died about 1832 and was buried to the left of her husband, but whether in the first or second grave from that of her husband is not known. The headstone of the first grave has no inscription. That of the second grave, when I examined it in 1913, showed faint signs of an inscription seeming to read, "E. Range, D Aug. 18....."; but all was uncertain.

NOAH RANGE (RANGER—REANGER), father of Peter Range, was born October 1, 1713. His wife Elizabeth Coons (Kones—Coens) was born March 17, 1715. So said Jeremiah B. Range (1837-1911) grandson of James and great-grandson of Noah, who gave the surnames as Range and Coons. As will be seen hereinafter, our first definite knowledge of Noah and wife is in Somerset County, New Jersey, where their children were born; and where lived also Coons, Kones and Coens families, and the Bogart (Bogaert—Bogaerdt) family with which the Range family intermarried.

John and Noah Range, probably brothers, seem to have reached America at or about the same time and to have settled first in Somerset County. Noah and wife were there at the birth of their first child in 1741. John was baptized there in 1745, and both John and Noah were there about 1761. John apparently moved northward to Essex County, New Jersey, as the will of John Range, mentioning wife Elizabeth and unmarried daughters Elizabeth and Mary, executed in March, 1787, was probated there in July following. Noah and wife and their surviving children and members of the Bogart family moved westward about 1765 to York (later Adams) County, Pennsylvania. Noah died probably not long after reaching York County, as no record of him has been found there. His wife Elizabeth died November 21, 1771, apparently in York County. The children were as follows:

| | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Catharine, | b. Feb'y. 27, 1741, d. _____. | m. Samuel Bogart |
| Elizabeth, | " July 29, 1742, " _____. | " Henry Bogart. |
| John, | " Jan'y. 27, 1744, " _____—1827. | " Madeline Shollas. |
| Mary, | " Sept. 15, 1745, " _____. | " William Owings. |
| Lea, | " July 8, 1746, " Sept. 27, 1748. | Child. |
| Peter, | " March 26, 1749, " Oct. 10, 1817. | " Elizabeth Ronimus. |
| Margaret, | " Feb'y. 7, 1751, " _____. | _____. |
| Eve, | " March 27, 1753, " Aug. 31, 1753. | Child. |
| James, | " July 21, 1754, " July 26, 1825. | " Barbara Hammer. |
| Hannah, | " Jan'y. 11, 1756, " Dec. 2, 1771. | Child. |

John was a lietenant in Fourth Battalion, York County Militia (Pa. Archives, Series 6, Vol. II), and James was a soldier in Eighth (Muhlenberg's) Virginia Regiment (Pension record), both in the Revolutionary Army. No revolutionary record has been found as to Peter, but he was probably a member of Muhlenberg's regiment, no muster roll of which has been found. Jeremiah B. Range quoted his father Jonathan to the effect that three sons of Noah went into the Army in 1776.

Catharine and Elizabeth apparently married in Somerset County before their migration. John married in York County and lived there (and in Adams County cut off from York) until about 1803 when he removed to Venango County, Pennsylvania. Conveyances of record in York and Adams counties show that Mary was a spinster in January, 1768 and was living with her husband in York County in April, 1771, and indicate that they subsequently removed to Fairfield County, Ohio. Margaret probably married and lived in York County. Peter and James Range, and Samuel and Henry Bogart and their wives went to nearby Berkeley County, Virginia (now West Va.), where Peter Range seems to have married. All these subsequently moved about 1779 down the Valley of Virginia and to what is now upper East Tennessee. Henry Bogart and family settled near what was later Strawberry Plains, Peter Range and family in what is now Washington County, the others in what is now Carter County, where James Range married in 1787.

Except that he gave Lea's birth month as January and Hannah's birth year as 1757, the foregoing list of the children is as furnished from family records by Jeremiah B. Range who further quoted his father to the effect that Noah Range and wife came from Germany. The mentioned list is substantiated by baptismal records of the old Reformed Dutch Church at Raritan, Somerset County, New Jersey, as follows:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|-----|-------|
| Raugh, Noach and Elisabet—Catrina, | May | 24, | 1741. |
| ——— Noagh and Elisabet—Elisabet, | Feb'y. | 9, | 1743. |
| Vange, Noagh and Lisabet—Johannis, | March | 11, | 1744. |
| Raugh, Noagh and Lisabet—Marya, | Nov. | 3, | 1745. |
| Vanys, Noagh and Lisabet—Lea, | Feb'y. | 8, | 1747. |
| Strang, Noag and Lisebet—Peteris, | May | 7, | 1749. |
| Raeug, Noag and Elisebet—Margrite, | April | 21, | 1751. |
| Raeug, Noag and Elisebet—Jacobes, | June | 8, | 1755. |
| Renser, Enoag and Elisebet—Anate, | April | 13, | 1756. |
| Raugh, Johannis, adult baptism, | Oct. | 6, | 1745. |

Of these baptisms the first nine correspond to the births listed above, except as to Eve who lived but five months. Jacobes is Dutch for James. The last baptism is apparently that of John, supposed brother of Noah. These records have been published in the Somerset County Historical Society Quarterly (Vols. II, III); which also sets out entries from old records indicating that Noah Ranger sold land in Somerset County in 1761 (Vol. IV); and that John and Noah Ranger lived at Badminster, Somerset County about 1760 (Vols. VI, VII); and numerous records of births and

marriages of the names Coon and Coens, and Bogart, Bogaert and Bogaerdt of the corresponding and earlier periods, running through the eight volumes of the Quarterly. In this same Quarterly (Vol. IV) appears an account of the settlement in 1765 *et seq.* of Conewago colony in York County, Pennsylvania, by immigrants who went over the York road; including Dutch and German families from Somerset County, New Jersey.

The awkward and varied spelling of the parental names appearing in the baptismal records, above, indicates that in recording them the Dutch scribes were grappling with names rendered in German. As above mentioned, Jonathan Range stated that Noah Range and wife were from Germany; and in 1908 Mrs. Mary C. De Vault, widow of John, quoted her then deceased husband to the effect that the parents of Peter Range came from Germany. The tradition of some John Range descendants is that his family was from Germany. One author, *Virkus*, states that the parents of Lt. John Range, and his father-in-law Theobalt Shollas came from France. However, the church record above would seem conclusive as to the birthplace of John; and the name Theobalt Shollas would seem to be German. In the wills of Shollas and his wife, both executed in 1788, the names of the son-in-law and his children are spelled Reanger—three times in each; but in his own will executed in 1827 the son-in-law signs his name John H. Range, Sr.

The census of 1800 for Mt. Pleasant Township (then of Adams Co.) shows John Range. York County tax lists show John Ranger in 1779 and 1782, and John Range in 1780, 1781 and 1783 (Pa. Archives, Series 3, Vol. XXI). As has been noted above, the name was sometimes spelled Ranger in Somerset County. Another author, *Rietstap*, records that a Range family was ennobled in Saxony in 1716, and describes its arms. There was much phonetic spelling and other inaccuracy in recording the names of early German arrivals at Philadelphia. While the name Range has not been found among these, Hans Rinch arrived in 1727, Hans Martin Ranger in 1732, Conrath Rann in 1737, and John Jacob Rhan, Vallentin Schallus and Bastian Shaller in 1749 (*Rupp*).

From the foregoing I reach the conclusion that the Range (Ranger—Reanger) family was from Germany and of French Huguenot extraction, the name having been originally Reanger. This name with its basic French pronunciation would readily lead to the spelling, Range, adopted about the time of the removal of the brothers John and Noah from Somerset County. The names Coons (Kones—Coens) and Bogart (Bogaert—Bogaerdt) were no doubt originally Dutch (See Nicholas Kones).

For the early adduction of the Jeremiah B. Range data, above, and subsequent investigation of the Noah Range history much credit is due to Mrs. M. J. Jones, now deceased, and her daughter Nancy, Mrs. Robert H. Stickley, descendants of Noah Range through both Peter Range and his sister Catharine Range Bogart.

NICHOLAS KONES (COENS) of Somerset County, New Jersey was the father of Elizabeth Coons—Kones—Coens (Range). He was born about 1680, probably in Germany, and immigrated to Somerset County. The will of Nicholas Kones of "the Mountains," Somerset County, was executed May 29, 1746 and was proved in Somerset County on October 15 of the same year (N. J. Archives, Series 1, Vol. 30, p. 285). Its recitals leave little doubt of the indicated family connection. It lists wife Catharine, and children Jacob, Michael, Adam, Barbara Menton, Margaret Harsough, Elizabeth Ranger and Mary Harpending.

In addition to the Range baptisms (See Noah Range), the following Dutch Church baptisms at Raritan are published in the mentioned volumes II and III of the Quarterly:

| | | | |
|--|--------|-----|---------|
| Hertoog, Piter and Anna Margarita—Piter, | Feb'y. | 4, | 1733/4. |
| Hertsoggt, Pieter and Anna Maria—Lisabet, | " | 13, | 1736/7. |
| Hertsog, Piter and Margriet—han Jurg, | March | 26, | 1737/8. |
| Hertsog, Piter and Margriet—Henderick, | May | 24, | 1741. |
| Hertsogh, Pieter and Margrita—Catrina. | August | 18, | 1743. |
| Coens, Edden and Eva—Nicklaes, | March | 11, | 1744. |
| Harppending, Henderick and Maritie—Lea, | May | 27, | 1744. |
| Coens, Johan Miggel and Maria Elisabeth —Anderis (witness Anderis Mindang), | July | 22, | 1744. |
| Hertsogh, Pieter and Margrita—Marya, | Nov. | 3, | 1745. |
| Harpending, Henderick and Marytie —Caterintie, | March | 9, | 1746. |
| Coens, Adaan and Eva—Mendoen, | June | 9, | 1749. |
| Coens, Adaem and Eva—Lisebet, | Dec. | 2, | 1753. |
| Harpending, Henderick and Maryte—Piter, | May | 23, | 1754. |
| Harpendyn, Henderick and Marya —Anderis Menton, | June | 14, | 1761. |

The husband of Barbara Menton was apparently Andrew Mintong (Anderis Mindang), as Mintong executed in January, 1768, in York County, a conveyance to his "cousin" Mary Range. John Miggel Coens is apparently Michael of the will. The use of the spelling, "Coens," and its accurate rendition by Dutch scribes is significant.

The names Coons and Kones were apparently English and German variants of the Dutch name, Coens. I think that Nicholas was of Dutch extraction; but his use of the German variant suggests German sojourn. The names of his wife and children indicate marriage after leaving Germany. Jonathan Range and John De Vault apparently did not know of the New Jersey sojourn (See Noah Range).

HENRY DE VAULT (DEWALT—DEWALD), father of Valentine De Vault, was born in 1733. He was born in the Kingdom of France, married Catharine Maria Greaver, a German woman, and came to America when his first child, Philip, was one year old—so said Mrs. Louisa De Vault Kitzmiller, daughter of Philip De Vault, when questioned in 1875 by Rev. E. O. Guerrant, D. D., who married Mary, daughter of John De Vault son of Frederick, and who made the first known genealogical record of Henry De Vault and his descendants. Accompanied by his wife and child and a brother Philip, Henry came down the Rhine on a river boat and sailed from Rotterdam. Mrs. Kitzmiller spoke interestingly of the river trip and how duties were exacted by various towns passed on the river. This sketch will proceed from that point, leaving for a later sketch the discussion of origin and variations in name appearing herein.

Henry and family sailed from Rotterdam on the English ship, *Chance*, and arrived in Philadelphia on or about September 23, 1766, the entire trip having taken six months. He qualified in Philadelphia on that date, signing his name "Henrich Dewalt." He settled near McAllester-town (now Hanover), York County, Pennsylvania, where he became a prosperous farmer. There he acquired land on which he made his home, and there his other children were born. Whether he was originally a Protestant we do not know; but in York County he and all his family seem to have been members of the Lutheran Church.

He entered the Revolutionary army as a member of the York County militia and took part in important battles. He was an ensign in Sixth Battalion under Col. Ross, and was later a lieutenant in Seventh Battalion under Lt. Col. Winterode and Col. Kennedy, as appears from various muster-rolls and a pay-roll of September, 1781 of Capt. Furrey's company. In those records his name, which seems in each instance to have been entered by a clerk, no signature appearing, is given as Henry Dewalt. A York County militia roll of 1785 includes the names Henry Devalt and Philip Dewalt, apparently Henry and brother or son, and John Kitzmiller. (Pa. Archives, Series 6, Vols. II, III).

After the close of the Revolution Henry continued to prosper. He acquired other lands in York County. About the year 1797 he visited Tennessee and purchased land in Sullivan County on which he subsequently settled his sons Gabriel and Henry, and in Washington County where he settled his sons Valentine and Frederick. Two sons-in-law, Nicholas Keefauver and Martin Kitzmiller, went to Tennessee about that time, and later his youngest son, Jacob.

Henry received in July and August, 1809, in Pennsylvania, patents for four tracts of land as follows:

April 30, 1765, 156 acres, 10 perches, warrant to Daniel Utts.

July 19, 1767, 44½ acres, application of Peter Burnett.

Nov. 14, 1768, 34 acres, 81 perches, application of Daniel Utts;
(deed from Utts March 20, 1784.)

April 27, 1786, 111 acres, 21 perches, grant to Henry Dewalt.

The first three tracts adjoin each other and lie partly in West Manheim Township, York County, and partly in Union Township, Adams County (cut off from York County in 1800). The last tract lies in Manheim Township. All were held by Henry long before the issuance of the patents.

Henry De Vault died in 1817. His will which was executed on March 6 of that year and was probated on May 10 following, is very devout in form and is said to have been the longest will of his period probated in York County. In the body of the will which was written by another in a flourishing hand, and was probably read to but not by him, his name appears as Henry Dewald, the surnames of his sons being similarly spelled therein; but the will is signed Henrich Dewalt. The English and German forms of names were otherwise confused. Catharine Maria was written Mary Catharina; Margaret, Mary Margaret; Catharine, Catharina; Mary, Mary Elizabeth; Julia, Julian; Keefauver, Keefaber; Wortz, Worst; Gabriel Greaver, Gabrial Graver; and Manheim, Manhime.

In this will Henry made most detailed provisions for the care of his wife, Mary Catharina, from the personal estate, the produce of his home plantation, and charges against devised lands; and these devises were carefully equalized by charges against the various tracts. To his son Jacob was given the "dwelling plantation" in Manheim Township, York County; and to the widow Elizabeth and daughter Catharina of his late brother-in-law Gabrial Graver was given the use for life of a second tract lying partly in Manheim and partly in Heidelberg Township (as then bounded), same county, previously tenanted by said Graver. To his sons Gabriel and Henry were given the two tracts of 315 and 105 acres, respectively, in Sullivan County, Tennessee, purchased from "a certain John Bishop"; and to his sons Valentine and Frederick was given the "plantation" of 637 acres in Washington County, purchased from "a certain John Been." Also mentioned and provided for were his remaining sons and his daughters. Henry, who had in the meantime removed from Tennessee to Indiana, subsequently sold his part of the Sullivan County lands to his brother Gabriel; making a return trip to execute the deed.

Henry De Vault was buried in the old St. Matthew's Lutheran churchyard at Hanover, where his wife was subsequently buried. Before her death in 1918 Miss Lucy Forney, a descendant through her mother Mrs. Louisa Wortz Forney, secured the removal of the remains of Henry and wife to Mt. Olivet cemetery in Hanover, where they were reinterred in the Abner W. Forney plot. The original gravestones, which were removed to the new location, stand side by side, the material portions of the inscriptions thereon being respectively as follows:

"In memory of Henry Dewald who was born April 10, 1733 and departed this life April 16, 1817, aged 84 years and 6 days."

"Mary Catharine wife of Henry Dewald who was born August 8, 1737, died October 2, A. D. 1830, aged 93 years 1 month and 24 days."

The list of the children, their husbands and wives, appearing next hereinafter, is as given by Dr. Guerrant who seems not to have recorded dates of birth; but the years of birth and death of Henry, Valentine and Frederick are known; the year of birth of Philip is indicated by the statement of Mrs. Kitzmiller; and it appears that Philip died at 79, Margaret at 75, Catharine at 86, Mary in 1856 aged 85, Julia at 75, Jacob at 75, and that Elizabeth and Gabriel were twins and died on the same day, aged 90. The Tennessee census of 1850 shows the ages of Gabriel, Mary and Jacob. The uncertain dates have been calculated accordingly.

The children:

| | | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|--|
| Philip, | b. 1764 (?), | d. 1843 (?) | in Va. (W.Va.). | m. Catharine Long. |
| Margaret, | " 1766 (?), | " 1841 (?) | " Pa. | " Samuel Long. |
| Elizabeth, | " 1767, | " 1857 | " Md. | " John Kitzmiller. |
| Gabriel, | " 1767, | " 1857 | " Tenn. | " Mollie Kitzmiller. |
| Catharine, | " 1769 (?), | " 1855 (?) | " " | " Nicholas Keefauver. |
| Mary, | " 1771, | " 1856 | " " | " Martin Kitzmiller. |
| Henry, | " 1774, | " 1864 | " Ind. | " Kitty Gross. |
| Valentine, | " 1776, | " 1842 | " Tenn. | " Susan Range. |
| Frederick, | " 1778, | " 1847 | " " | " Margaret Range. |
| Julia, | " 1780 (?), | " 1855 (?) | " Pa. | " Jacob Wortz. |
| Jacob, | " 1785, | " 1860 | " Tenn. | " (1) Rachel Kitzmiller; (2) Elizabeth Scott. |

Philip De Vault, brother of Henry the elder, was apparently younger and came to America as a member of Henry's family, as his name does not appear among those who qualified on landing. According to Dr. Guerrant he settled where Cincinnati now stands, and had two children, Catharine and Phillip, who lived in Cincinnati.



THE GRAVES OF HENRY DE VAULT AND WIFE

CATHARINE MARIA GREAVER (DE VAULT) was of German parentage, born in 1737, probably in left-bank Palatinate. Nothing more is known of her ancestry; but it appears from her husband's will, and immigrant lists, that a brother Gabriel arrived on the same ship with her and lived and died in York County, Pennsylvania. She was married about 1762 to Henry De Vault and came with him to America. She seems to have had a strong influence on her husband and family personally and religiously, judging from their personal and religious characteristics and the names of the children. It was probably through her influence that her husband and children were Lutherans. She died in 1830 and lies beside her husband.

ANCESTRY OF HENRY DE VAULT (DEWALT—DEWALD).

Just east of the Rhine in Germany, two hundred years ago, was the Palatinate with its cities Heidelberg and Mannheim (now Mannheim). It then extended across the Rhine, but the left bank was lost to France in 1796. Nearby was the French town of Lure, now the capital of a French arrondissement near the Swiss border. Around Lure lay the ancient bailiage of Dole between Saône and le Doux rivers, Lure being on the north side of le Doux river (Atlas de Augondi—M. Robert, 1755). There was born in 1717 François Eugene de Vault, lieutenant general under Louis XV (Dic. de Biog. et Hist.—Dezobry & Bachelet). There flourished in the same century François Joseph de Vault, "Conseiller à la Chambre des Comptes de Dole, gouverneur de Lure," whose arms were emblazoned in chief with "trois bonnets albanais d'or, au soleil du même" (Armorial Général—Rietstap; Supplement—Rolland). There was also a bishop of an earlier period of the name de Vault.

Following the revocation in 1685 of the Edict of Nantes the Huguenots fled from France by thousands. They went to Germany, Holland, England and America. It has been stated that no less than 80 of the Prussian staff and 65,000 soldiers at the siege of Paris bore Huguenot names (Caen France, 1560-72—Lart). Many of the children and grandchildren of those Huguenots were among the thousands of German emigrants who landed at Philadelphia from 1727 forward, including sometimes whole shiploads from the Palatinate. From 1743 to 1766, besides women and children seven male persons of name Dewalt, and others of

name Dewald and variations, arrived at Philadelphia. Johannes Gabriel Graber (Greaver) arrived on the same ship with Henry De Vault. Johannes Graber and Johannes Grauer (probably the same person) are listed as arriving in 1749.

Henri de Vault (for that was no doubt his original name) was not a Huguenot emigrant, though he probably had relatives who were. Mrs. Kitzmiller said that he was born in France and married a German woman. Had he been living in Germany at that time she would no doubt have said so, and Dr. Guerrant would have recorded the fact. Furthermore Mrs. Kitzmiller is substantiated. Said Valentine De Vault, Jr.: "Our people came originally from France near the German line, * * * half and half in blood though they spoke the German language" (E. C. Reeves, 1923, in *The Dawalt Family in Indiana, ms.*—Nora Dawalt Short and Eva Dawalt, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis). Said Frederick R. De Vault in 1936: "I do not think there is any doubt about Henry De Vault being of French descent, nor of his wife * * * being of German blood. * * * He spoke French, German and English" (Davault—Dewalt Genealogy, *ms.*—Newland Davault, 1937).

Henri was apparently born in Dole, found his wife in nearby west-bank Palatinate, and lived with her there among the Germans until he started down the Rhine in the spring of 1766. He accepted the German rendition of his name, became known as Henrich Dewalt, and became German in his associations and habits. He probably followed to America relatives of himself or wife or both. He landed at Philadelphia among German immigrants, signed the name Henrich Dewalt, and lived among the Germans of York County, from the township names Heidelberg and Manheim no doubt largely Palatines.

The Pennsylvania census of 1790 lists heads of families: In southwestern York County, Philip, Frederick and Valentine Dewalt, Grosley Devault and Nicholas Keefaver; in Franklin County next west, Gourage and Henry Devault and Peter Devalt; and in Berks County to the near north-east, Henry, John and Michael Dewalt. The census of 1800 lists in York County Philip, Frederick and Valentine Dewalt, Gabriel Graber and Samuel Long; and in the south-east corner of Adams County just cut off from York County, Henry Devalt, Martin Kitzmiller and Jacob Wertz. The census of 1810 lists in Manheim Township, south-western York County, Henry and Jacob Devalt and Samuel Long.

When the ages of the children of Henry of our sketch, and the last enumerated names are considered it is apparent that there were in 1790 in

York and surrounding counties other De Vault—Dewalt families besides that of Henry. Henry apparently settled first in southern York County just west of what became in 1800 the Adams County line; was temporarily farther west in 1790, but returned to his old location before 1800; and before 1810 removed a few miles further east to Manheim Township, York County, where he made his final home.

Having in mind the “v” sound of the German “w,” it will be seen that among the Germans the name “de Vault” quickly became spelled “Dewalt,” whence it was soon confused with the old, similarly pronounced German name, “Dewald.” In Pennsylvania, while usually written Dewalt (or Dewald) by those of German speech, it was sometimes written Devalt in partial reversion to the French form, and sometimes Davalt as a result of a more flat, English pronunciation, “Da” not being a French form. Due to the foreign tongue there was much inaccuracy in listing the names of German immigrants on arrival; and there was among the immigrants a widespread carelessness as to the spelling of their names that lasted well into the pioneer period.

The German form, Dewalt (Dewald), seems to have been retained by Philip who remained for a considerable time in Pennsylvania, and many of his descendants, whence the spelling appearing on the tombstones of his parents. Henry, who remained but briefly in Tennessee and there signed the deed of 1820, Devalt, seems thereafter to have written his name Dawalt, as do many of his descendants. Subject to early variations in spelling, from carelessness, as above, the four sons who went to and remained in Tennessee seem to have reverted to the original French name; the significant feature of those variations being the abandonment of the German “w” for the French “v” (See Valentine De Vault). E. C. Reeves, who had spent a long life among the descendants of these, had never seen the name spelled Dawalt until 1923 (*The Dawalt Family*, above). These descendants write the name with English capitalization, De Vault; except that some Frederick De Vault descendants use the further variant, Davault.

The procession of names used by or applied to Henry De Vault from the cradle to the grave is somewhat confusing. As it is considered impracticable to use all, the form used in the title to this sketch has been adopted as preserving substantially his original name, that of his military service, and that on his tombstone; besides conforming to the English rendition of his original name now in use by many descendants.

SECTION IV.

Ancestry of Rev. William Robeson

Rev. Alexander C. Robeson and wife Catharine Lynch; William (?) Robeson and wife ——— Colwell (?).

REVEREND ALEXANDER COLWELL ROBESON, father of Rev. William Robeson, was born November 6, 1785 in Greenbrier (later Monroe) County, Virginia (now West Va.). In early manhood he was active in the militia, and was captain of a light-horse company in the War of 1812. He married about 1812. Having previously entered 500 acres of land in what became later McMinn County, Tennessee, about four miles south-west of the present town of Athens, he removed thither about 1815 with his wife and first child, and a nephew, Elihu, son of his brother John, whose mother had died. There on a knoll not far from a spring he erected his dwelling, and nearby a tannery that was operated along with the farm. There his other children were born, and there was his home for the remainder of his life. This land originally belonged to the Cherokee Indians, and a tribe of those Indians lived within a few miles of the Robeson home and frequently visited there.

In his prime the Rev. Robeson was 5 feet 10 inches tall, compactly built, with dark curly hair and blue eyes. He went clean shaven. He was of good intellectual capacity, had a fair education, kept a considerable library, read and studied a great deal and was well informed. In politics he was a Whig. He was one of the commissioners who laid out the town of Athens. In middle life he was active in the establishment of Cedar Springs Methodist camp ground near his home; and at the first meeting held there he joined the Methodist Church, in which he subsequently became a local preacher. He was for many years a justice of the peace. It has been said of him that he caused more cases to be compromised than he tried (Prof. R. M. Burke in Historical Number of the Athens Post, May 11, 1901). The nephew Elihu was brought up as a member of the family.

I think the Reverend Robeson must have been much like his son Alexander C., a handsome, genial man who like his brother William showed his Scotch ancestry, and was for many years a prominent merchant of Athens. I have his letter of March, 1898 wherein he answered carefully to the best of his ability my questions as to the Robeson ancestry.

The Rev. Robeson was but 57 years of age when he died December 9, 1842. He was buried in what was then or later a small graveyard near the camp ground, where his wife was subsequently laid near him. In 1915 the home site and burial place of the Rev. Robeson and wife were visited by a grandson James M. Robeson and a great-grandson Stanley Reeves. The house was no longer standing, but the hewn door-step and a few foundation stones remained, and there were faint signs of the tanyard. The graves were in fair condition, tombstones standing.

The children:

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|----------|---|
| Rebecca, | b. 1814, | d. 1883. | m. Robert W. Hamilton. |
| Mary, | " 1815 (?), | " 1865. | " Rev. William W. Haymes. |
| Jane, | " 1817 (?), | " 1885. | " (1) William Eaton; (2) Flemming Gibbs. |
| Caroline, | " 1819, | " 1880. | " James W. Hamilton. |
| William, | " 1822, | " 1905. | " Adaline Easley. |
| James M., | " 1824, | " 1893. | " Emaretta Schoolfield. |
| Calvin Carter, | " 1827, | " 1885. | " Martha Guinn. |
| Alexander | | | " (1) Carrie Knox; |
| Colwell, | " 1830, | " 1911. | (2) Susan Hoyle, widow. |
| Elihu | | | |
| (nephew), | " 1812, | " —. | " Mary E. ——— (Census, 1850). |

Some of the dates last above are from Andrew Robeson and his Descendants, wherein the wife of James M. is listed as Emaretta Fairbanks (See William Robeson).

CATHARINE LYNCH (ROBESON) was born June 4, 1786. When a child she was brought as a member of her father's family to Greenbrier (later Monroe) County, Virginia (now West Va.). About the year 1812 she was married in Monroe County to Alexander C. Robeson, and after the birth of their first child removed with her husband to what was later McMinn County, Tennessee. She was a twin of Rebecca who married John Robeson brother of her husband. She was of medium height, with dark complexion, dark hair and dark eyes, and was said to have been a very beautiful woman. She was a member of the Methodist Church, and was warmhearted and affectionate and devoted to her family. She died June 18, 1846 and was buried near her husband.

We do not know the first name of the father of Rebecca and Catharine Lynch. He was of Irish nationality and came with his family, when his daughters were children, from what was later Monroe County, Pennsylvania to Greenbrier County, Virginia. The name of his wife, also understood to have been Irish, is not known. As reported by A. C. Robeson in 1898, a son, a promising young lawyer, visited the Robesons in McMinn County, en route to Middle Tennessee where he settled, dying soon after. According to Rev. William Robeson two cousins of his mother, James and Logan Lynch, went from Pennsylvania to Overton County, Tennessee, where they settled and married. Rebecca died soon after the birth of her only child, Elihu Robeson.

It has been thought that our Lynch was of the family for which Lynchburg, Virginia was named, but I doubt that (See Lynchburg and its People—Christian). An interesting account of the supposed ancient origin of the Lynch family of Ireland can be found in Galloway Archeological-Historical Journal, Vol. 8, 1913-14).

WILLIAM (?) ROBESON. We do not know certainly the first name of the father of Rev. Alexander C. Robeson; but for identification and for reasons appearing hereinafter he will be designated "William" in this sketch. He had been dead for about forty years when his mentioned son died in 1842 in Tennessee. There was probably little communication thereafter between the Tennessee members of the family and relatives in Virginia; and the name had become uncertain when I first made inquiry in 1898. Rev. William Robeson thought probable that the name was William, but his brother A. C. Robeson wrote: "I have always thought that my grandfather's name was Alexander and his wife's maiden name was Caldwell"; both surmises being based on family names.

According to family tradition William (as we will now call him) was of Scotch parentage and was one of two brothers who came from Pennsylvania; one, William, settling in Greenbrier (later Monroe) County, Virginia, the other going to North Carolina. William was born about 1745 and married about 1769 in Pennsylvania or Virginia; the maiden name of his wife, as we have seen, having been probably Colwell or Caldwell. Of William's life in Virginia we know little. He and a son William about 19 years of age were drowned together about the year 1800 while attempting to ford the Greenbrier River.

The names Robson, Robeson, Robertson, Robinson and other variations, and Colwell and Caldwell, appear frequently in early Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia records of this general section; but identification of individuals is difficult by reason of the carelessness of early settlers in the spelling of names. One land entry in Greenbrier County dated January 14, 1780 recites that William Robertson is entitled to 251 acres of land adjoining the lands of John Robertson, by right of settlement before January 1, 1778. Others are: James Robinson, September 7, 1782, 100 acres; James Robertson, November 27, 1784, 1000 acres; and David Robertson, November 12, 1784, 200 acres, and November 27, 1784, 200 acres and 100 acres respectively. The connection of these persons with the Robeson family under consideration is a matter of speculation.

All the known surviving children went to Tennessee. Of these John who married Rebecca Lynch in Monroe County, lost her at the birth of their only child, Elihu. John and James went to White County, Tennessee where John married the second time, and where James was supposed to have married. Martha and Mary and their husbands went to McMinn County; Martha and husband subsequently going to Alabama. Alexander

C. and wife settled in McMinn County. The following Virginia (West Va.) marriage records have, however, been lately found:

Greenbrier County:

Ann Robinson to Andrew Donnally, Aug. 31, 1789.

Mary Robinson to Andrew Berk, Aug. 9, 1798.

William Robinson to Eliza Griffy, Nov. 12, 1829.

Monroe County:

John Robertson to Rebecca Linch, March 15, 1806.

James Robinson to Nancy Burdette, March 17, 1818.

There is no family tradition of Ann, but such daughter might have married in Virginia and stayed there. Mary and John of this list are manifestly of the Robeson family above. William of the list is evidently not of this family, in view of the history of William, above. Alexander C. was supposed to have been the youngest child, and James was supposed to have married in White County; but paucity of information as to the last, and the marriage record last above, suggest the probability of error. From the known names and dates, and the data above, the following list of the children has been evolved:

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Martha, | b. 1775 (?), d. —. | m. Thomas Wilson. |
| Mary, | " 1778 (?), " —. | " Andrew Burke. |
| William, | " 1781 (?), " 1800 (?) | Unmarried. |
| John, | " 1783 (?), " —. | " (1) Rebecca Lynch; (2) —————. |
| Alexander C., | " 1785, " 1842. | " Catharine Lynch. |
| James, | " 1790 (?), " —. | " Nancy Burdette (?). |

This list differs in arrangement and some details from that of the Robeson genealogy, next discussed, which apparently did not have the benefit of the marriage records above.

An interesting genealogical work, Andrew Robeson and his Descendants—Kate Hamilton Osborne, 1916, deals with the life and descendants of Andrew Robeson, Jr., born in 1654, presumably in Scotland, who died in 1720 in Pennsylvania. Eleven children are listed, of whom the tenth was Peter, born about 1707. Seven children of Peter are listed, the third having been William, born about 1739. At the time of the preparation of that genealogy I had considerable correspondence with Mrs. Osborne concerning William (?) above, and the question of his identity with Wil-

liam son of Peter. The conclusion reached on this point in that genealogy is as follows:

“Tradition says of William that he migrated from Pennsylvania with a brother, we know that two sons of Peter Robeson, one named William, settled in North Carolina, he is supposed to be *this* William. William Robeson from Pitt Co., N. C. was a delegate to Halifax, N. C. Nov. 12, 1776, and a member of the General Assembly 1777 (Citation). Peter’s brother Thomas had settled in this state, which is supposed to have prompted Peter’s sons to migrate to this locality. William afterward moved to Va. in Monroe Co. where he and his son William were drowned while attempting to cross Greenbrier river.”

The Colonial Records of North Carolina, as published, include many references to Thomas and William Robeson and others of the Robeson name in eastern North Carolina. Prior to his holding office as above William Robeson seems to have been active in the revolutionary movement as early as 1771. He was subsequently an active member of the revolutionary safety committee, apparently throughout the war. There seems to be no record of his subsequent migration elsewhere. Having gone so far south from Pennsylvania, and having his roots so deep in eastern North Carolina, it seems unlikely that he would, in middle age, practically reverse his first course and migrate to western Virginia (now West Va.). There are other Robesons in western North Carolina of undetermined origin, some of whom have been said to resemble markedly descendants of Rev. Alexander C. Robeson.

William (?) Robeson of Virginia probably settled in Greenbrier County before the Revolution, and may have married there. Remembering that we do not know definitely his first name or the family name of his wife, and that family tradition of him includes no indication of residence in North Carolina, I am dubious of his identity with William of eastern North Carolina. The Andrew Robeson family of Pennsylvania was a large one, and he may have fitted in elsewhere. In any event he was Scotch, of that sturdy group, Robson—Robeson—Robertson, that dates back to early times, as indicated by the tomb of the Honorable Adam Robson, with Latin inscription showing him born in 1555, and Latin cross with fleurs de lys, that I observed in 1936 in the wall of Dryburgh Abbey, south of Edinburgh.

To the north-west at Dun Alastair on Loch Rannoch was the seat of the chiefs of the ancient Clan Robertson or Donnachaidh, of which only the burial place remains. I found it with the help of a native guide. It was in a wood, perhaps 60 feet square, inclosed by a wall; a dreary spot, but in fair condition.

SECTION V.

Ancestry of Adaline P. Easley

Vincent Easley and wife Nancy W. Hamilton; Joshua Hamilton and wife Elizabeth Acuff; Ancestry of Joshua Hamilton; Timothy Acuff and wife Anna Leigh.

Peter Easley and wife Elizabeth Vincent; John (?) Vincent and wife Frances Brewer (?).

Stephen Easley and wife Mary Ann David; Peter David and wife Ann.

John Easley and wife Mary Benskin; Jeremiah Benskin and wife Elizabeth.

Robert Esely (Easley) and wife Ann Parker; William Parker and wife Ann Powell; Capt. William Powell.

VINCENT EASLEY, father of Adaline Easley (Robeson), was born October 2, 1790 at the home of his father Peter Easley (subsequently his own home) in Sullivan County, now Tennessee. He and others of his father's sons were soldiers under General Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans. After the close of the war he accompanied his father and others on a tour of the Wabash River country where his father died. He married in 1821. He was a prosperous farmer. His home was a home of refinement and hospitality. The residence, a rambling old time house of logs built by his father and subsequently ceiled and weatherboarded, still stands about four miles south-east of Kingsport on the Kingsport-Greeneville highway.

In his prime Vincent Easley was six feet tall, with dark brown hair, fair complexion and deep blue eyes. He went clean shaven until old age. His education was acquired in the neighborhood schools, but he was a studious man of good mental ability. In politics he was a Whig. He was a member of the Methodist Church, but "charitable toward all churches, a friend of education, in moral principles unswerving and unchanging, in social relations standing with people of highest intelligence and worth, a calm, thoughtful man who thought much and said little" (Rev. William Robeson). He kept himself informed on the issues of the day, and was a subscriber to secular and religious newspapers. Three files of these, including the National Intelligencer published in Washington and being of

the period of the Mexican War, were preserved after his death by his daughter Adaline who in old age presented them to the writer.

He died at his home May 16, 1864 and was buried in what became the family cemetery, on an eminence just across the highway from his home; where lie also his wife, his sons Albert, Elbridge and Edward, and his daughter Amanda. Edwin was buried in the Thomas Easley cemetery a few miles away; Adaline near Morristown; the wife of Elbridge and her father Thomas Vincent (1790-1864) at the Hunt family cemetery south of Johnson City; the wife of Edward at Rock Spring Methodist Church, Sullivan County; the husband of Adaline at Blountville; and the husband of Amanda at Evansville, Indiana.

The children:

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Edwin Francis, | b. 1822, d. 1823. | Infant. |
| Albert Gallatin, | " 1824, " 1866. | Unmarried. |
| Elbridge Vincent, | " 1825, " 1883. | m. Elizabeth Vincent. |
| Edward Livingstone, | " 1828, " 1904. | " Jane Poston. |
| Adaline Patton, | " 1832, " 1913. | " Rev. William Robeson. |
| Amanda Wilkerson, | " 1834, " 1921. | " John W. Jaques. |

NANCY WILKERSON HAMILTON (EASLEY) was born February 17, 1799 at the home of her father Joshua Hamilton in Sullivan County, Tennessee. She spent her early years at her father's home, and received a reasonably good education. On September 12, 1821 she was married to Vincent Easley, and lived happily with him until his death, which occurred before her own.

She was rather tall, erect and active, with luxuriant dark brown hair and blue eyes. She was a good scribe and an excellent letter-writer. Like her husband she was intelligent and kept herself well informed; and was never beyond her depth in conversation. A loyal Methodist, she loved her Church and its history, and was known for her deeds of kindness to the poor. She died May 7, 1872 after a week's illness, and was buried beside her husband.

JOSHUA HAMILTON, father of Nancy Hamilton (Easley), was born in North Ireland in 1759. While he was but a boy his mother was left a widow. About 1773 she came to America, bringing with her the six children, of whom Joshua was the eldest. The family came first to Maryland, probably landing at Baltimore; but it may have moved on to Bedford County, Virginia; for there Joshua, then in his eighteenth year, enlisted in the Revolutionary Army. The census of 1850 for Sullivan County, Tennessee, which was his final home, lists him as 90 years of age, with notation, "Revolutioner. Born in Ireland." In 1832 he applied for and ultimately received a pension for his service, under an Act of Congress of that year. Among his pension papers, which are in the archives at Washington, is his affidavit setting out his military service, in substance as follows:

That he volunteered in Bedford County, Virginia in 1776 to serve a three months tour under Capt. Thomas Doolan "and marched to Williamsburg, same state, where we joined the main army"; and where he remained until he was discharged at the end of his tour; that shortly thereafter "he removed to the frontier settlements of North Carolina, now Tennessee * * *"; and "That in the Spring of 1778 he volunteered for a three months tour * * *, which enrollment was under a captain whose name he has forgotten, but was for to act as a spy company & range the vicinity of Fort Monroe on Clinch river, which duty he performed for about the space of three months and returned home * * *." That he "was again enrolled as a volunteer under Capt. Russell and Col. Charles Robison for another tour of duty against the Cherokee Indians who had been in alliance with the British and were depredating upon the settlement and met the Regiment at the Long Island in Sullivan County (then Washington) and descended the Holston river by water to Chickamauga in the Cherokee country & destroyed the towns in that quarter, killed some and drove back the residue of the Indians, and returned again after being discharged verbally, and arranged in companies for defense in returning"; this in 1779, beginning March 1, and ending the last day of May. That in the ensuing year he volunteered under Lt. Edward Cox of Col. Martin's command for another expedition against the Cherokee Indians, to reinforce Col. John Sevier, and served under Martin and Sevier on the French Broad river, and marched to Chota in the Cherokee country, and "had an engagement at the crossing of the Ten-

nessee river, & again burned all the towns, corn and provisions, and destroyed their property & again returned home and was verbally discharged on their return to the settlements on Lick creek (now Greene County) after being in said service about three months"; and "That in the fall of the year 1780 he again volunteered under Capt. Warring of General Shelby's command for an expedition against the British in the south, commonly called King's Mountain battle in which he was during sd. expedition which battle was in Sepr. 1780. That the Army rendezvoused on Watogo and marched across the Yellow Mountain and from thence met the British under Ferguson on the top of King's Mountain, and after a severe and doubtful contest for some time succeeded in obtaining a signal & complete victory. Ferguson was then killed & the whole army either killed or taken prisoners. Having to the best of his recollection been three months in service and returned home after being verbally discharged by said Shelby after the Regiment had crossed over the mountain and had reached within a day's travel of his residence * * *; having been in the whole service under the five enlistments a period of fifteen months in service as a volunteer in the revolutionary war * * *."

Signed and sworn to August 22, 1832 before N. Netherland, Clerk "of the Court of Pleas & Quartersessions" for Sullivan County, Tennessee, by G. W. Netherland, Deputy Clerk. Indorsed: N. Lucky, Atty. Affidavits of Edward Cox and Jacob Beeler included. Memo.: "Let. to Sam'l. J. Rhea, Oct. 29, 1835. Dup. certifs. Dec. 3, 1835 & sent to Hon. W. B. Carter, M. C., Prest."

Joshua Hamilton, when he went to Sullivan County, entered a fine farm on the Holston River about two miles from the present Holston Institute and the Johnson City-Bristol-Kingsport air-port. There he constructed on a knoll a dwelling which still stands, but with considerable alteration. A fine old limestone chimney of the original house may still be seen. Down in front among some tall trees is the spring that once served the Hamilton family. About one-hundred-fifty yards up the slope to the rear of the house in what was at first the orchard is the Hamilton burying ground.

Joshua married about the year 1785. Besides three children who died young he and his wife reared thirteen sons and daughters who lived

to old age. Some of the sons served under General Jackson in the War of 1812. "Both father and sons were stalwart, fine looking men. The daughters were models of purity and true womanhood" (Mrs. Adaline Robeson). The children were well educated for their time and section. The family was one of refinement and high standing. Father and sons kept fine horses and hounds and rode and hunted a great deal. The father was above medium height, with brown hair and blue eyes. He was genial, sober and moral. In his old age he joined the Methodist Church and was an attendant at Bond's Camp Ground not far from his home. He was made a lieutenant of militia on the organization of Sullivan County in 1790.

Joshua Hamilton died in November, 1851 in his 93rd year. He was buried in the orchard of his home, beside the wife who had preceded him. With his great-grandson James M. Robeson I visited the spot in 1945. It was fenced and in good condition; the older stones, though neat, being without inscription.

The children, next below, are listed as given by Mrs. Robeson. The dates of birth of Timothy, Mary and Nancy are known. Five others are as indicated by the census of 1850. The remaining five are estimated. All are arranged accordingly. The list:

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Timothy A., | b. 1788, | d. 1837, | m. Eleanor Craft. |
| Mary, | " 1789, | " —. | " John Easley. |
| Thomas, | " 1790 (?), | " —. | " Deborah Massengill. (To Ark.) |
| Sarah, | " 1793, | " —. | " Thomas Easley. |
| Francis, | " 1795 (?), | " —. | " Unknown. (Went west.) |
| Joshua S., | " 1797, | " —. | " Sarah Ellis. (Census 1850.) |
| John, | " 1798, | " —. | " Elizabeth ————. (Went west.) |
| Nancy W., | " 1799, | " 1872. | " Vincent Easley. |
| Easter, | " 1801 (?), | " —. | " Mark Nelson. |
| Rosannah, | " 1803, | " —. | Unmarried. |
| Anna G., | " 1804 (?), | " —. | " Augden Jacques. (To Ind.) |
| Abraham, | " 1805, | " —. | " Susan Gammon. |
| Elizabeth, | " 1806 (?), | " —. | " John Hull. |

ELIZABETH ACUFF (HAMILTON), daughter of Timothy Acuff, was born in Culpeper County, Virginia in 1765. In her youth she was brought as a member of her father's family to what was later Sullivan County, Tennessee. There she was married about 1785 to Joshua Hamilton. She was tall and dignified and graceful in carriage, with brown hair and brown eyes, refined in speech, and an excellent hostess. She was a lifelong Methodist. She died in the fall of 1842 and was buried in the orchard at her home. "The funeral of old Sister Hamilton at Gammon's Schoolhouse" is noted by Rev. Robertson Ganway in his autobiography (Va. Magazine of Hist. and Biog., Vol. XXXVIII).

ANCESTRY OF JOSHUA HAMILTON. We do not know the first name of the father of Joshua Hamilton, who died in North Ireland; but according to Mrs. Robeson the maiden name of his wife was Sampson. This must have been a brave woman who after her husband's death gathered her brood about her and came with them to the New World. Whether she remained in Maryland or went with Joshua to Bedford County, Virginia and thence to Tennessee we do not know. Whether she is buried in the Hamilton cemetery in Sullivan County is not disclosed by the unlettered gravestones. Of the children, Joshua has been discussed; Nancy married Thomas Vincent brother of George; a son, name not known, was killed by Indians; and Rosa seems to have married and settled in Maryland. The children were listed by Mrs. Robeson as follows:

| | | |
|---------|----------|--------|
| Joshua, | Abraham, | Nancy, |
| John, | a son, | Rosa. |

The Hamilton family has been identified with the history of Scotland from the days of Robert Bruce, and subsequently in some branches with that of Ireland; its present leading representatives being the Dukes of Hamilton and Abercorn. More than fifty crests of various Hamilton families, mostly Scottish, are listed by *Fairbairn* who also lists those of prominent Sampson (and Samson) families. Both families are well represented from early times in both Great Britain and America.

As a result of religious disturbances in Scotland a great exodus to North Ireland began about 1609; whence that strain called Scotch-Irish. About that time three sons of Baron Claude Hamilton of Paisley settled in Ireland, from whom come well known families. Robert Hamilton be-

came a denizen of Ireland in 1610 (House of Hamilton, *ms.*, Dublin, 185—, N. Y. Public Library, Gen., ARZ). William Hamilton was granted the privileges of an English subject and was granted lands in Ireland in 1617 (Landed Gentry of Ireland—Burke). It is interesting to note among the eighteenth century descendants of the last the given-name, Sampson. It was no doubt that exodus that brought to Ireland the parents or grandparents of Joshua Hamilton. There was in the eighteenth century a subsequent exodus from North Ireland to America which brought to Maryland the mother of Joshua and her family.

Joshua Hamilton stated to his children that he was descended from the Hamiltons of Scotland. James M. Reeves, Sr., quoted Joshua Styres Hamilton, son of Joshua, to the effect that his father was of royal (noble?) ancestry. We do not know definitely the ancestral line of Joshua Hamilton; but I have little doubt that somewhere in the distant past it leads to the line of the historic family of the oak and the saw and the motto, "Through."

TIMOTHY ACUFF, father of Elizabeth Acuff (Hamilton), was born in the Colony of Virginia in the year 1735—so said Mrs. Adaline Robeson many years ago. He married about 1760, probably in Culpeper County, Virginia, where he resided until after all his children were born.

In the year 1777 he entered 386 acres of land in what later became Sullivan County, Tennessee, to which he removed with his family about 1782. He sent in the spring two men-servants with stock and tools to plant crops and prepare for the arrival of the family which occurred in the fall, the Acuff carryall leading the way, followed by wagons loaded with household goods; after which all sat down to a feast of wild turkey and such other foods as the neighborhood afforded, prepared in anticipation of their arrival.

There Timothy Acuff built a log house, subsequently weatherboarded and enlarged by a frame addition. This was his final home. It was later occupied by his grandson, Timothy Acuff Hamilton. It stood until a few years ago when it was replaced by a more modern residence. It stood hard by and on the southerly side of what is now the Bristol-Kingsport highway, two miles west of Blountville and just west of the "Highland Mills" residence of Rev. William Robeson.

Timothy and family were loyal Methodists. Their home was always open to the pioneer preachers who traveled through the country. Timothy

There is also a certificate in old time print except for name, date Sept. 13, 1777 and signature, reciting "that Timothy Acoff hath taken and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegience and fidelity, as directed by an act of General Assembly * * *. (Signed) William Walmer (Seal)."

Also a certificate reciting the survey "by David Shelly, C. S.," of 386 acres, "the farm on which Timothy Acuff settled," by order of "John Carter, E. T. of Washington County, State of North Carolina, Sept. 21, 1777."

And finally a certificate dated March 8, 1785, signed "Robert Mays, D. S., Davidson County, State of North Carolina," reciting a survey ordered for Timothy Acuff, "by virtue of a military warrant," of a tract of 640 acres of land "on the waters of Stone River." This has been made the basis of an assumption that Timothy was a Revolutionary soldier. However, the record of the grant shows that the warrant was assigned to him by another, and no record of such service has been found.

Timothy Acuff died October 5, 1823, sitting in an arm chair at the home of his son-in-law Joshua Hamilton. His last words were: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." He was buried across the highway from his residence, beside the wife who had preceded him.

In his list, above, Timothy apparently did not attempt to follow the regular order of the children, as is indicated by known dates, besides omitting those without offspring. The list follows, order uncertain except as indicated by known dates of birth:

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Eleanor, | b. 1761, | d. 1849. | m. George Vincent. |
| Christopher, | " —, | " —. | " —————. |
| Elizabeth, | " 1765, | " 1842. | " Joshua Hamilton. |
| Mary, | " —, | " —. | " ————— Rogers. |
| Francis, | " 1769, circ., | " 1795. | Unmarried. |
| John, | " —, | " —. | " ————— Duncan. |
| Sarah, | " —, | " —. | Unmarried. |
| Nancy, | " —, | " —. | " ————— Ashworth. |
| Anna, | " —, | " —. | " Rev. Nathaniel Munsey. |
| Susannah, | " —, | " —. | " Thomas Craft. |

Nancy and family seem to have settled in Indiana. According to Mrs. Robeson, Christopher, Mary and Susannah, and their families (with some exceptions) settled in Davidson County, Tennessee. Rev. Francis died in Kentucky.

Unlike the Easleys, Leighs and Vincents, Acuffs have not been found in seventeenth century Virginia records. Those of the period of Timothy Acuff are rare, and it is probable that they were of the first or second generation from immigrants to Pennsylvania or further east. John Acuff served in 1763 as a sergeant in the militia of Henry County; and John Acoff appears in 1767 in the list of tithables of Pittsylvania County (Va. Magazine of Hist. and Biog., Vol. IX, p. 416; XXXIII, p. 379). Cain Acuff (wife Esther) appears to have been a planter, first in Spottsylvania County, later in Henry County (1764-1788), and to have bought and sold land in the former county (Va. County Land Records, Spottsylvania Co., 1721-1800—Crozier).

David and Peter Acoff appear as heads of families in the census of 1790 for Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Gravestones of David Acuff (*d.* 1809, *aet.* 90), David Acuff (1785-1861) son of Jacob and Mary Acuff, Margaret Acuff (1790-1844) wife of David Acuff, Mary Acuff (*d.* 1832, *aet.* 72), and those of Acuffs of later generations are found at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Whitemarsh, Montgomery County (Gen. Society of Pa. Pubs., Vol. XII, pp. 144, 254).

While in one certificate and two records, above, the name is spelled "Acoff," these are considered merely errors of the scribes. The name Acuff is apparently a variant of "Aculf" of the old English name Dacre or Fitz-Aculf of Dacre, Cumberland, from Aculf a companion of the Norman Conqueror (See *The Norman People*, Henry D. King & Co., London, 1874).

ANNA LEIGH (ACUFF) was of an excellent Virginia family; the maiden name of her mother having been White. She was born in 1742, was married to Timothy Acuff about 1760, probably in Culpeper County where they made their first home, and subsequently went with him to what was later Sullivan County, Tennessee. She was said to have been small and dark. Said her husband after her death: "She made me a noble wife, modest, amiable and kind." She died October 18, 1820 and was buried in the Acuff Chapel graveyard, where about two years later her husband was laid beside her.

Her husband apparently liked to talk of the days of courtship. According to Mrs. Robeson, the first time he saw his future wife she was in the yard at her father's home breaking green boughs with which to fill the fireplace. Said he: "She was very beautiful, and I knew she was industrious and good from the work in which she was engaged." He described himself when he went courting as wearing a shirt of Irish linen with pleated sleeves and stiff cuffs, dressed buck-skin knee breeches sewn with silk, long stockings, and silver knee and shoe buckles.

As further narrated by Mrs. Robeson, a wealthy aunt, Grantha Brown, took Anna to live with her and be the heiress of her large estate. One evening the niece was permitted to visit a neighbor, accompanied by her maid. On her return she was escorted part of the way by a young man of the neighborhood, and they lingered to talk for a few minutes before parting. This was reported by the maid to the aunt, who was much shocked at the news. She informed the niece that she could either take a whipping or return home. The high spirited girl promptly took the latter course, thus losing a fortune.

The name Leigh (pronounced "Lee") is old and well known in England where there are several families of the name with recognized coats of arms. It is said to branch from the Norman house De la Mare (The Norman People, King and Co., London, 1874). It is also old and well known in Virginia where there were numerous immigrants of the name from 1627 forward. William Leigh patented land on Charles River in 1642; and Francis Leigh was on the Governor's Council in 1678 (Va. Magazine of Hist. and Biog., Vol. XXIV, p. 252; XXXII, p. 62). The name is represented in later Virginia history.

PETER EASLEY, father of Vincent Easley, was born in Halifax County, Virginia, October 15, 1765, and when about eighteen years of age went with his father, Stephen Easley, to what later became Sullivan County, Tennessee. He married there in 1785, and constructed there on a part of his father's plantation the house which was his home for the remainder of his life and which subsequently passed to his son Vincent. There his children were born, and there he lived the life of a substantial farmer. He was said to have been a genial man, devoted to his family and home. In appearance he seems to have been a typical Easley, about six feet tall, compactly built, with dark brown hair and blue eyes.

After the close of the War of 1812 there was a flow of migration to the Indiana territory which became a state in 1816. Peter and others, including his son Vincent, formed a party to tour the new country, possibly to explore its advantages as a place of settlement for some of the younger generation. Peter died on this trip of malaria fever, about 1819, and was buried in a small graveyard on the Wabash River near what is now New Harmony, Posey County, southwestern Indiana.

The children:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Frances, | b. 1786, d. ——. m. Michael Light. |
| John, | " 1788, " ——. " Mary Hamilton. |
| Vincent, | " 1790, " 1864. " Nancy Hamilton. |
| Robert, | " 1793, " ——. " _____. |
| Moses, | " 1795, " ——. " _____. |
| Winifred, | " 1798, " ——. _____ Powers. |

All the children went west except John and Vincent. John occupied the old Stephen Easley home until it burned, and thereafter rebuilt on or near the same site.

ELIZABETH VINCENT (EASLEY) was born in eastern Virginia, March 21, 1766. She came in her youth with her brothers and sister to what was later Sullivan County, Tennessee, where on December 1, 1785, she was married to Peter Easley, and became a devoted wife and mother. In general appearance she was fair, with blue eyes and rosy cheeks. In later life she became somewhat fleshy. After the marriage in 1821 of her son Vincent she went to make her home with her children Robert and Frances, in Hickman County, Tennessee. She died there about 1840.

JOHN (?) VINCENT. We do not know certainly the first name of the father of Elizabeth Vincent (Easley). In 1910 Mrs. Adaline Robeson stated her impression that his name was John, and that the maiden name of his wife was Frances Brewer, remarking that a daughter of John Easley was named Frances Brewer.

The parents of Elizabeth apparently did not come to the Tennessee Country, then a part of North Carolina. According to Mrs. Robeson, at least three sons and two daughters came about 1782 to what later became Sullivan County, Tennessee, of whom George whose tombstone shows him to have been born in Brunswick County, Virginia, seems to have been the eldest, the order of the others being uncertain; the list being as follows:

| | |
|------------|---|
| George, | <i>m.</i> Eleanor, daughter of Timothy Acuff. |
| Thomas, | " Nancy, sister of Joshua Hamilton. |
| Frances, | " —————. (Settled near Nashville.) |
| Elizabeth, | " Peter Easley. |
| A son, | " —————. (Settled in Georgia.) |

The Vincents were people of intelligence and worth. Like the Easleys, Hamiltons and Acuffs, they were Methodists. Rev. Thomas Wilkerson who traveled that part of the country described George Vincent and Robert Easley (son of Stephen) as two of the most intelligent men of that section.

George and Thomas Vincent, and Stephen, Thomas and Peter Easley were signers of the petition of 1787 by "The Inhabitants of the Western Country" to the General Assembly of North Carolina, for separation from North Carolina. George Vincent, who seems to have been recognized as the head of the Sullivan County family, was a justice of the peace under the territorial government and was otherwise prominent. He commanded a militia company in the expedition of 1788 against the Chickamauga Indians where he was severely wounded (The Lost State of Franklin—Williams, pp. 189, 320, 338).

According to their gravestones, George Vincent was born in 1753 in Brunswick County, Virginia, and died in 1832; and his wife Eleanor was born in 1761 in Culpeper County, Virginia, and died December 23, 1849. They were married in Sullivan County. George entered land there near that of Stephen Easley, and on this land he built a two-story log house, subsequently weatherboarded, which was his final home and which still stands though unfit for habitation. Husband and wife were buried on a hill on the plantation, in what is now a small graveyard, some of the

older markers of which are without inscription. The children were listed by Mrs. Robeson as follows, order uncertain:

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| John, | <i>m.</i> Elizabeth Cox. | Sarah, | Unmarried. |
| Thomas, | " Sarah Embree. | Nancy, | <i>m.</i> Benjamin Easley. |
| Dr. Southwell, | Unmarried. | Susan, | " Elijah Embree. |
| Francis, | " Mildred Gaines. | Rebecca, | " Rev. Hugh Johnson. |

The will of John Vincent, executed in 1788 and probated in 1789 in Greensville County, Virginia (taken in part in 1780 from Brunswick County), lists wife Rebecca, brother Joseph, and ten sons and daughters, eight of whom were minors; none of them corresponding to those listed first above. The inventory of Joseph was filed in 1798, but no list of the names of his family has been found.

The Vincent family is an ancient one. N. Vincent, Thomas Vincent and Harvey Fitz-Vincent were in Normandy in 1180-95; Robert Fitz-Vincent in England about 1198; and John, Robert and Thomas Vincent in England about 1272; "hence the Baronets Vincent" (Nobiliaire de Normandie—O'Gilvy, Eng. Sup., Huguenot Society of America Pub., Vol. 4, p. 66).

There were in the American colonies two general branches of early immigrants of the Vincent name, many of them of Huguenot extraction; those of the north who came mainly by way of New York, and those further south who came mainly to Virginia, our Vincents being of the last. The name was well known in early Virginia. William Vincent was living at "ye neck of land" in 1623, and planted 100 acres of land at "Charles Cittie" in 1626 (Emigrants to the American Plantations, 1600-1700—Hotten). Thomas Vincent was granted land in the County of Elizabeth City in 1635 (Va. Magazine of Hist. and Biog., Vol. I, p. 102). Henry Vincent was granted land in Westmoreland County in 1662 and 1664 (Va. County Record Pubs., N. S., Vol. I, Book 3, pp. 92, 93). There were other arrivals of the name thereafter (Cavaliers and Pioneers—Nugent).

STEPHEN EASLEY, father of Peter Easley, was born about the year 1715 in that part of Henrico County, Virginia that became Chesterfield County in 1749. He married in 1751, or at least subsequent to August 18, 1750 (See Mary Ann David), and resided thereafter in Cumberland County, where one or more children were born. He is mentioned as a juror etc., and his brother Robert as inspector, name there spelled "Beazly," in 1736-37 Henrico County records (Va. Colonial Abstracts, Vol. XXII, p. 9 *et seq.*). Robert having died intestate and without issue before the division of the estate of their father, John Easley, Stephen shortly thereafter sold his interest in the real estate to his brother Warham, as shown by a conveyance of March 2, 1753 of record in Chesterfield County; and subsequently removed to Halifax County, Virginia, where his other children were born, and where the elder ones married.

Stephen was not the first Easley to arrive in Halifax County. Daniel of Cumberland County bought land there in 1761 and 1762, and in 1765 received there as a gift from his second father-in-law William Echols 50 acres with houses, barns, orchards etc. Stephen purchased land there in 1763; as did Pryant in 1764, and Warham, above, in 1773, both of Cumberland County (Conveyances of record). The purchases of Stephen were as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| From Daniel Easley, | Feb. 19, 1763, | 1000 acres. |
| " " " | April 2, " | 150 " . |
| " Joshua Powell et al., | June 21, 1770, | 75 " . |
| " George Brown, | Nov. 12, 1777, | 175 " . |

From the descriptions these lands seem to have been in the same general neighborhood on Banister River. Stephen did not hold them permanently. On May 20, 1773 he gave to his daughter Sarah Stubblefield 200 acres; and on the same date, joined by his wife Mary Ann, he conveyed to William Childress 200 acres. He held the remainder until 1780, at which time he seems to have begun preparation for a new migration. Then followed the following conveyances (Deeds of record):

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| To Robert Chappell, | May 18, 1780, | 325 acres. |
| " John " | March 12, 1781, | 200 " . |
| " George Ridley, | " 15, " | 400 " . |

It is interesting to note that in the last conveyance Ridley is described as of Sullivan County, North Carolina; and that the names of contiguous

owners and witnesses in these various conveyances include Adams and Childress, old Sullivan County names, besides Thomas Easley and Benjamin and Thomas Dixon. As a result of increased values and war time inflation the latter sales showed handsome profits. The considerations for Stephen's four purchases totalled 330 Virginia pounds. Those of the last three sales alone totalled 19,125 pounds. This probably had much to do with the determination of Stephen to seek, so late in life, the opportunities of a newer country.

Unfortunately for our search the courthouse at Blountville, Sullivan County, Tennessee was burned in 1863 with many records. It was, however, in 1782 that Stephen Easley entered 1320 acres of land on Horse creek near Holston River; in Sullivan County just formed but not organized until 1790 (Phases of S. W. Territory History—Williams). About the close of the Revolution he removed thither with his family which included at least the younger children; the other children going then or later.

Like other settlers of this section, Stephen Easley built a log house. This house, which was his final home, stood on the Horse creek bluff overlooking his broad acres and visible for a long distance. It was destroyed by fire after his death and was replaced by another.

Stephen was a man of intelligence and refinement and was a prominent citizen. His home was one of comfort and hospitality. Like that of Timothy Acuff it was a stronghold of early Methodism. Bishop Asbury visited and preached at this home. In an entry in his journal for May 6, 1788 he wrote: "I had many to hear at Easley's on Holstein"; and again for Feb. 8, 1790: "Thence we went * * * groping through the woods to brother Easley's (Early Travels in the Tennessee Country—Williams).

The years of birth and death of Stephen are not definitely known but have been estimated (See Mary Ann David). He died about 1803 and was buried on his plantation, on the slope of a hill about 200 yards from his residence, in what was thereafter a small family graveyard, where later his wife was buried.

The children:

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sarah, | b. Dec. 1, 1752, d. | ——. m. Robert L. Stubblefield. |
| Robert, | " Nov. 25, 1754, " | ——. " Winefred Dixon. |
| Thomas, | " " 23, 1756, " | 1842. " Cleo Waide. |
| Daniel, | " Dec. 4, 1759, " | ——. " ————— Stubblefield. |
| Stephen, | " May 16, 1763, " | ——. " —————. |
| Peter, | " Oct. 15, 1765, " circ., 1819. | " Elizabeth Vincent. |

The list of children and dates of births are from the Bible of Stephen Easley, "Printed by Adrian Watkins, His Majesty's Printer," Edinburgh, 1756.

Robert and Winefred were married in Halifax County in 1778 (Tyler's Quarterly, Vol. IV, p. 59—Va. Hist. Index). Robert Loxley Stubblefield (*b.* 1751) and Sarah were married in 1772 (Bible Records and Marriage Bonds—Acklen, p. 206). They sold their Halifax County property, above, on June 15, 1780. Thomas and Cleo were married in 1782; Peter and Elizabeth in 1785.

Robert Easley, last above, was a man of exceptional intelligence (See John Vincent). He was made an ensign of militia at the organization of Sullivan County in 1790 (Phases of S. W. Territory History—Williams), and was a justice of the peace in 1802. Robert and Peter settled on the paternal lands. Thomas went to Georgia, then to South Carolina, and finally to Hickman County, Tennessee. He is said to have had Revolutionary service. The other children seem to have gone to Granger County, Tennessee.

Daniel Easley, first above, married (1) Ann David (See Peter David), and (2) Elizabeth, daughter of William Echols (See above). The will of Daniel Easley of Halifax County (previously of Cumberland County), Virginia was executed in January, 1786 and was probated in Halifax County shortly thereafter. It disposed of lands, slaves and personalty, and mentioned wife Elizabeth, sons Isaac and Daniel, daughters Mary Ann Parker, Ann Easley and Phoebe Adams, and grandchildren Robert and Elizabeth Easley, children of John, deceased. The lands bordered those of Stephen Easley. Pryant Easley, above, then of Granville County, N. C., sold his Halifax County land in 1769. (See Robert Esely.)

MARY ANN DAVID (EASLEY), daughter of Peter David and wife Ann, was born, according to calculation, in 1716, in that part of Henrico County, Virginia which became Goochland County in 1728, and Cumberland County in 1749. She was first married to William Burton, to which marriage was born at least one child, as evidenced by the first entry in the Bible of Stephen Easley, as follows: "Ann Burton daughter of William Burton and Mary Ann David was borned March 15th day in the year of our Lord Christ, 1749"; which language was followed in the subsequent entries referring to Stephen's children. In view of the age of the mother and for other reasons it is probable that there was at least one older child of this marriage (See Peter David), and that Ann, an infant, was at the time a member of Stephen's family and was accordingly mentioned in his Bible record.

William Burton died apparently about the time of the birth of Ann. The widow thereafter married Stephen Easley, presumably in 1751. She was Mary Ann in her father's will of 1729, and Mary Ann Burton in her mother's will of October 18, 1750.

According to definite family tradition (as related by Mrs. Adaline Robeson) Peter Easley, born October 15, 1765, was born in his mother's 50th year. When the infant was laid in her arms her eyes filled with tears. "I will not live to see him grown," said she. She lived to see his grandchildren.

This tradition is consistent with the recitals of the mentioned wills. The birth year of the mother has been calculated accordingly. If Stephen Easley was as old they would have been 35 years of age at marriage, and about 66 when they left Halifax County for the Tennessee country. Under all the facts I have calculated the birth years as 1715 and 1716.

The wife lived to a great age, dying about 1815, and was buried beside her husband. With James M. Robeson, great-great-grandson of this venerable couple, I, their great-great-great-grandson, visited this graveyard in the fall of 1945. All the markers therein were of rough unlettered stone. The graves of Stephen Easley and wife could not be identified. The graveyard was inclosed by a low broken fence, and was almost concealed by second growth timber.

In the language of E. C. Reeves when he, too, wrote of earlier days: "Remorseless Time!"

PETER DAVID AND WIFE ANN, parents of Mary Ann David (Easley), were French Huguenots. They were married probably in Virginia about 1712.

Virginia received a goodly number of Huguenots who fled from France after the revocation in 1685 of the Edict of Nantes and included some of the best blood of France. In 1699 an expedition of about 400 of these, followed later by about 300 more, left England for Virginia under the leadership of the Marquis de la Muce, and settled for the most part on land that had been granted them on James River, in Henrico County about twenty miles above Richmond. There they established a town called Manakin Town, later Parish of King William. Among the names of these settlers we find the name David (*A Brief History of the Huguenots—Chastain; Old Virginia and her Neighbors—Fiske, Vol. II; The Huguenot Year Book No. 1, 1924*). *Rietstap* lists the arms of a number of French families, David. The name David, of France, is probably, like that of England, from the old Norman name, "Davi" (See *The Norman People, King & Co., London, 1874*).

Peter David and wife lived and died in the Parish of King William, in that part of Henrico County that became Goochland County in 1728 and Cumberland County in 1749. We know them mainly by their wills which show that they were thrifty and prosperous, but indicate that while Ann lived to old age, Peter died considerably younger.

The will of Peter, executed May 28, 1729, and probated in Goochland County August 18, 1730, disposed of personalty, slaves, the home plantation and an additional tract of 400 acres of land, and named four children, none of whom was then married. The will of Ann was executed October 18, 1750, and was probated in Cumberland County in the month following. It listed but three children, Isaac having died in the meantime; and listed the two daughters by their then married names, Mary Ann Burton and Ann Easley. As recorded, it included a bequest to Lewis Banton of two pounds for schooling. It is probable that the last was a child of Mary Ann by her first marriage, the name Burton having been miscopied. Ann, born May 10, 1722, married Daniel Easley; and Peter married Elizabeth ————— (Douglas Register, pp. 380, 381). The birth years of the sons have been estimated. The children:

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Peter, | b. 1714 (?), | m. Elizabeth —————. |
| Mary Ann, | " 1716, | " (1) William Burton; |
| | | (2) Stephen Easley. |
| Isaac, | " 1719 (?), | |
| Ann, | " 1722, | " Daniel Easley. |

JOHN EASLEY, father of Stephen Easley, lived in that part of Henrico County, Virginia that became Chesterfield County in 1749. He married Mary, daughter of Jeremiah Benskin. He died leaving a will that was probated in Henrico County.

In that will he left to his sons William, Warham, Robert and Stephen a tract of 400 acres of land on Powhick creek, then Henrico County. The record of that will has not been found; but these facts are recited in a deed of March 2, 1753 from Stephen to his brother Warham, both then of Cumberland County, of Stephen's interest in the mentioned real estate then in Chesterfield County (See Stephen Easley).

Of the four sons, William and Robert were both dead prior to the date of the mentioned deed (See deed). Warham, second of the name, married Ann, daughter of John Woodson and wife Mary Miller of Cumberland County (W. and M. College Quarterly, Vol. XI, p. 56; Woodsons and their Connections—Woodson, pp. 65, 66); Stephen married Mary Ann David Burton (widow); and both subsequently removed to Halifax County (See Stephen Easley).

The mentioned will of John Easley should not be confused with that of John Easley who resided on Deep Creek in Goochland County (cut off from Henrico County in 1728), which last will was executed ———— 4, 1746 and was probated in Goochland County in a court of August 19 of that year. In it the testator mentioned wife Joyce Easley, sons Samuel, John, William, Robert and Millinton Easley, and daughter Judith Easley. Comparison of the names of wife and sons with those above shows that this testator was not John Easley, father of Stephen. He was apparently a son of Warham, first of the name (See Robert Easley). This will was written by another and was signed by mark. Thomas Dupray who also signed by mark was a witness to this will.

MARY BENSKIN (EASLEY), wife of John Easley, was the daughter of Jeremiah Benskin, as shown by the following Henrico County record of August 20, 1711:

“John Easley by his petition Setts forth that he married the Daughter of Jeremiah Benskin and therefore prays order for her estate which is in the hands of John Bolling Gentleman, the said Bolling appears and assumes to pay on account of the said Easley to Abraham Womack the Sum of five pounds five Shillings current money and also promises to pay the said Easley thirty Six pounds ten Shillings in goods at fifty per Cent on the first Cost or in Tobacco at one penny per pound, either of which payments is to be at the election of the said Easley, and in full Satisfaction for his wifes estate, to which the said Easley Consents” (Henrico County Orphan’s Court Book, 1677-1739).

JEREMIAH BENSKIN AND WIFE ELIZABETH, parents of Mary Benskin (Easley), lived in Henrico County. We know them mainly by the will of Jeremiah which was recorded as having been executed in April, 1670, and was probated in Henrico County June 3, 1703. Circumstances indicate that the date of execution of the will, entered as 1670, was miscopied and should have been 1690. By patent of October, 1704, issued after his death, Jeremiah was granted 324 acres of land on the south side of James River at the mouth of Westham creek, for the transportation of seven persons into the colony.

In the mentioned will he divided his “goods and chattels” between his wife Elizabeth and his daughter Mary, but made no mention of real estate. He left the “government, disposal and tutelage” of his daughter, and control of her inheritance, to his wife, and his wife’s mother not named. His wife was appointed executrix of the will.

While there were Huguenots in Virginia prior to the founding of Manakin Town, Jeremiah Benskin and wife were apparently English. Henry Benskin, son of Francis Benskin, Esq., of St. Martin’s in the Fields, Middlessex, was in Virginia in 1691 (Waters’ Gleanings; Some Emigrants to Virginia—Stanard).

ROBERT ESELY (EASLEY), father of John Easley, was apparently a French Huguenot. He married Ann Parker, who was not French, between October 11, 1679 and October 1, 1684, lived in Henrico County, Virginia, and died there early in 1712. He was too early for the Huguenot expedition organized in England by the Marquis de la Muce, that founded Manakin Town in 1699 (See Peter David). There were, however, earlier Huguenot arrivals in Virginia. In 1630 Baron de Saucé settled a colony on lower James River; and later others came (Va. Magazine of Hist. and Biog., Vol. 11, p. 289). Robert Esely seems to have been one of these; but he may have arrived by way of England.


In October, 1704 he received a patent for 315 acres of land on Reedy creek in Henrico County, "by and for the importation of Seven persons into this Colony." In the patent his surname is spelled, first, "Easly," then "Easely"; and in a notation thereon by the Governor's secretary, "Esly."

In July, 1718 Thomas Jefferson, Robert Eseley and others received a patent for 1500 acres in Henrico County, "at a place known by fine Creek" and "on a branch of the upper Manakin Town Creek"; consideration three pounds and "the Importation of Eighteen persons to dwell within this our sd Colony and Dominion of Virginia." This was apparently pursuant to an earlier entry as Robert was then dead.

The will of Robert Esely, of which we have only the record copy, was executed on December 17, 1711, and was probated in Henrico County on March 3, 1711 (1712). It followed the customary devout form of the period, beginning as follows:

"In the name of God Amen. I Robert Esely of the parish and County of Henrico being weak of body but of perfect mind and memory praised be God do make and Ordain my last Will and Testament in manner and form following * * *".

To his sons John Easly and Warham Esely and his daughter Margret Dupray wife of Thomas Dupray (names so spelled) he gave 500 acres of land "lying upon fine Creek." To his "three younger Children Elizabeth Esely, William Esely and (his) youngest Son Robert Esely" he gave 400 acres "lying between fine Creek and Manakin upper Creek." To his wife Anne Esely he gave the personal property, and made her his executrix.

The will, which was written by another, is signed, "The mark of Robt  Esely (L.S.)." The concluding seal, which appears as a crude

scroll, was probably added *pro forma* by the scribe. However, the mark between the two words of the name, which in such cases is usually written "X," here appears as a figure something like a human head, and may have been an imitation of a seal in the original or the copy; for we know that in early times signatures were often by seal only.

Goochland County was taken from Henrico County in 1728. Chesterfield County was taken from Henrico, and Cumberland County from Goochland, both in 1749.

In a conveyance of August, 1729, of which we have only the record copy, "Warham Eassley of ye County of Goochland" conveyed to Thomas Cardwell 400 acres of land in Goochland County "and on the South side of James River upon a branch of Deep Creek"; Warham's name being twice more therein spelled "Eassley," and once "Easeley"; but the conveyance is signed, "Warham Easley." An appended certificate of possession "by the within named Warham Eassley" is signed by Warham Easley and Sarah Easley; and a certificate of acknowledgment by Warham Easley and waiver of dower by his wife Sarah is signed by the clerk of the court.

The will of "Warham Easley of the County of Henrico" was executed in September, 1747, and was probated in Henrico County in November following. It was signed, Warham Easley; name so spelled in the probate; and was witnessed by Ann Easley who signed by mark. It did not mention the wife Sarah who apparently was dead. It divided the estate, consisting of slaves and personalty, between two sons, Robert Easley and Roderick Easley. It made them executors, at that point spelling the surname "Easley." John Easley, who resided on Deep Creek, Goochland County, died the previous year and was not mentioned in the will, was apparently another son of Warham (See John Easley).

Robert Easley, son of Warham last above, married Hannah Bates in Goochland County, in December, 1744, his brother Roderick being his surety (Goochland Co. record—W. and M. College Quarterly, Vol. VII, p. 100; will of Susanna Woodson—previously Bates, May 1757, Goochland Co.). He died in Chesterfield County about January, 1750. Hannah Easley, his widow, was appointed administratrix of his estate by Chesterfield court of February of that year, and was appointed guardian of their daughter Susanna in August, 1754 (Order Book 1; part 1, p. 79; p. 528). She applied to court of September, 1767 for assignment of dower, which was granted in October following (Order Book 4, pp. 102, 137). In August, 1760 she received a patent for land in Lunenburg County from which Halifax County was taken in 1752; and in April, 1764 she purchased land in Cumberland County (Documents of record).

Daniel Easley, then of Chesterfield County, purchased land in Cumberland County in September, 1751. Then living in Cumberland County, he sold this land in May, 1761; having bought land in Halifax County about one month before (Deeds of record). Daniel, Pryant, Warham and Stephen Easley, all then of Cumberland County, bought land in the same general neighborhood in Halifax County; Stephen buying first from Daniel (See Stephen Easley). Ann Easley, apparently the wife of Daniel, witnessed the will of Warham Easley, above. Daniel and Stephen married sisters. Roderick did not go to Halifax County, Virginia. My conclusion is that Daniel and Pryant were brothers. Whose sons they were is not clear.

Of the earlier wills and deeds only the will of John Easley of Goochland County has been found in original. With due allowance for errors of scribes and copyists it seems fairly clear that both he and his father Warham used the spelling, "Easley," though his brother Robert and their cousin Stephen used the spelling, "Esely." These variations were apparently more or less phonetic, the pronunciation of all being that of the present name, Easley. Not even the signature of the Robert Esely will, above, can be considered conclusive of the original spelling of the name.

One North Carolina family, by tradition from Germany, probably Huguenot, spells its name "Iseley." *Fairbairn* lists the crest of the Isely or Isley family. *Rietstap* notes the arms of the families d'Isly and Eslye (Note the "e" sound of the French "i"). "Esley, Com. du dép. des Vosges, arr. de Mirecourt, cant. de Darney; 413 hab." (*Le Grand Encyclopédie*, Vol. 16, p. 299). As stated by Judge D. M. Easley, his father John W. Easley (descendant of Daniel Easley above, through his son Isaac) quoted an old Frenchman to the effect that the name Easley was originally d'Esley.

The old Frenchman was probably not far wrong. Name, location, period and associations indicate that Robert Esely (Easley) was a French Huguenot.

ANN PARKER (ESELY—EASLEY), wife of Robert Esely (Easley), was the daughter of William Parker who died in Henrico County, Virginia, about 1679, leaving three children, Ann, Mary and William. The widow seems to have married John Milner, who was appointed guardian of the children. Milner died about 1684.

In Henrico County Orphans Court, on October 11, 1679, there was a division of certain livestock belonging to Ann, Mary and William Parker, orphans of William Parker, deceased (Records 4, Orphans Court, p. 4). In Henrico County Court, on October 1, 1684, there were set aside from the inventory of the estate of John Milner, deceased, certain articles held by said Milner as guardian of the orphans of William Parker, deceased; Mary, William and "one of said Parker's Orph's. now wife to Robert Easley" (Deeds & Wills, p. 286).

WILLIAM PARKER, father of Ann Parker (Esely—Easley), was granted in May, 1636 a patent for 350 acres of land "in the county of Warrisquick, on the south side of the Nanzamond River over against Dumplinge Island," for the transportation of seven persons into the colony (W. and M. College Quarterly, Vol VII, p. 286). His wife is said to have been Ann, daughter of Captain William Powell, an early arrival at Jamestown, from London (The Huguenot—Huguenot Society of Founders of Manakin, Colony of Va., Pub. No. 5, p. 80).

CAPTAIN WILLIAM POWELL, above, was prominent in Jamestown history. He became commander of the fort at Jamestown in 1617. He was a member of the House of Burgesses. He was killed by the Indians in 1622 (Cradle of the Republic—Tyler, 2d. Ed., pp. 105, 112, 232).

In the sketches of the John and Robert Easley families and their antecedents, last above, assistance has been derived from the article by Mrs. John H. Grinter and others (*The Huguenot*, citation above) which blazed the trail for my own research, and which goes further into collateral lines than do these sketches.

THE END.

